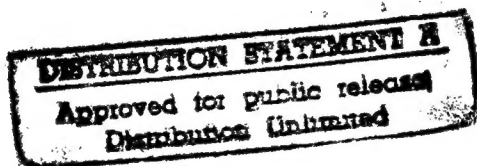


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East Europe Report



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14 NOVEMBER 1986

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ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CHEMICALS INDUSTRY GROWTH; EXPORT FIGURES FOR HUNGARY, POLAND

East Berlin AUSSENWIRTSCHAFT in German Vol 14 No 38, 17 Sep 86 p 28

[Article under "Chemical Products" rubric: "Activities of CEMA Countries"]

[Text] Selected Plan Tasks of the People's Republic of Poland

By 1990, Poland's chemical industry plans to increase its production by 23 percent relative to 1985. The main focal points in the production of the industrial branch are thereby fertilizers, plant protection agents, pharmaceuticals, cleaning agents and cosmetics, and paints and lacquers. It is in these areas where the greatest investment activity is foreseen in the 5-year plan for 1986-1990.

In this way, the domestic supply of chemical products can be increased by 23 percent and 44 percent more products can be made available for export. The highest rates of growth are foreseen for pharmaceuticals and veterinary compounds, whose production will almost double. At the same time, the assortment is to be expanded and the supply of antibiotics modified.

An increase in production of about 50 percent is planned for fertilizers and plant protection agents. It is intended to increase the agricultural use of fertilizers to 210 kg/hectare by 1990 (185 in 1985) and the use of plant protectives to 2 kg/hectare (1 in 1985). In terms of value, their share in the total production of the chemical industry will thus increase to 22 percent (18 percent in 1985).

By 1992, the production of household chemicals will increase by 30 percent for detergents, 42 percent for soaps, 52 percent for shampoos and 57 percent for toothpastes.

The expanded production of the chemicals industry is to occur primarily through the modernization of existing plants. The production departments now under construction at the chemical works in Police, Tarchomin, Wloclawek and Kedzierzyn (oxo-alcohol plant) are to be finished by 1990. The start-up of the last-named plant makes possible above all the expansion of plastics production.

Through the modernization of the existing works and the start-up of the plant in Police, the production of nitrogen will also be expanded and thus there will be an increase in the production of fertilizers. In the case of paints and lacquers, investment activity through the end of 1990 will be limited mainly to the modernization and expansion of existing capacities. The production of ship paints will not be expanded until after completion of the factory now under construction near Gdynia.

Among the few new investments of the chemicals industry are the opening of a sulfur mine in the region of Osiek and several plants for the production of plant protectives. The export of products of the chemicals industry increased by a total of 11 percent in the last 5 years, whereby this growth can be attributed primarily to increased exports to CEMA countries. The focal points of the exports are sulfur (40 percent) as well as organic and inorganic raw materials. In the case of shipments to socialist countries, finished chemical products predominate, especially drugs, cosmetics, paints and dyes, and lacquers. They account for more than 60 percent of the chemical exports to these countries and sulfur accounts for 20 percent.

Commodity Structure of Chemical Exports (in percent)			
Commodity	1980	1984	1985
Sulfur	23.0	29.7	32.6
Pharmaceuticals	21.1	20.2	20.7
Paints and lacquers	5.4	4.5	3.5
Cosmetics	7.0	3.5	3.3
Dyes	4.4	3.0	2.0

Rapid Growth in the Hungarian People's Republic

The growth in the Hungarian chemicals industry in the years 1981 through 1985 continued to be above the average for the national economic sectors as a whole. The increase in production of 2.3 percent was 0.4 percent higher than the industry average in the last 5 years. Between 1980 and 1985, the production of medicines almost doubled, that of plant protectives increased by a factor of more than 1.5, and the production of intermediate products approximately tripled.

The chemicals industry accounts for about 20 percent of the total Hungarian industrial production. It has an 11.6 percent share of Hungarian exports on a ruble basis and a 20.7 percent share on a non-ruble basis. One-fifth of the production of chemical products is exported to 80 countries. The most important export items to socialist countries are medicines and plant protectives, basic materials for plastics, and rubber goods. The export of medicines almost doubled between 1981 and 1985 and that of plant protectives more than tripled. In 1985, the value of chemical exports to the socialist countries was 870 million rubles.

In the case of exports to nonsocialist countries, medicines, petrochemicals, fertilizers and basic materials for plastics dominate. In the last 5 years,

exports to these countries increased by 30 percent for medicines and by 53 percent for plant protectives. In 1985, the export of chemical products to these countries attained a value of \$870 million.

In the past 5 years, the Hungarian chemical production developed primarily in two directions:

--The production of medicines, plant protectives and intermediate products was the focal point in the output of chemical products.

--Through 1985, the production of basic materials for plastics was increased by 25 percent to 390,000 tons and the processing of plastics by 41 percent to 420,000 tons.

Other branches as well had an important part in the growth of the chemicals industry. They include the household chemicals and cosmetics industry, the paints industry and the fertilizer industry.

The foreign-trade enterprise Chemolimpex entered into long-term agreements for the expansion of the reciprocal goods trade with more than 20 leading foreign concerns, including, among others, BASF, Hoechst, Bayer, Montedison, Ciba-Geigy, Sandoz, ICI and Dow Chemical. To increase exports, joint commercial enterprises were established in the FRG, Austria, Great Britain and France.

About 75 percent of the shipments of Chemolimpex are concentrated in five countries: the USSR, Austria, the FRG, Italy and Switzerland.

From 1986 through 1990, the production of the chemicals industry will increase by an average of 3.3 percent annually. The focus will continue to be the production of medicines, plant protectives and intermediate products as well as the processing of plastics.

At the end of this year, the largest Hungarian enterprise in the chemicals industry, the Tisza Chemicals Combine, will put into operation an up-to-date plant for the production of linear polyethylene at Leninvaros. This enterprise is to produce about 120,000 tons of linear polyethylene in 1987 and 140,000 tons annually beginning in 1988; 30 percent of the output is foreseen for export. The plant for linear polyethylene will mainly produce packaging film, tubing, cable, insulation material and containers. It is expected that the demand for linear polyethylene in the world market will increase by 30 to 40 percent annually. Therefore, it is planned to export 28,000 tons in 1987 and 40,000 tons annually beginning in 1988.

Among the most important products of the Tisza Combine are ethylene, polyethylene, propylene, polypropylene, fertilizers, plastics and paints. In 1985, production was valued at 20 billion forints and exports were valued at 100 million rubles and \$62 million.

The basis for the development of the Tisza Chemical Combine was established through the Hungarian-Soviet olefin agreement entered into in 1970, which expires in 1986. On the basis of a new agreement for the period through the year 2000, the USSR will deliver 60,000 tons of ethylene annually beginning in 1987 and in return the combine will deliver 25,000 tons of high-quality polypropylene.

ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

LEIPZIG FAIR DEALS ANNOUNCED--Among the most important agreements in the fair metropolis on Wednesday was a contract for the delivery of special technological equipment for the microelectronics of the USSR signed by the foreign-trade enterprises Carl Zeiss Jena and Technopromimport. The foreign-trade enterprise Fortschritt Landmaschinen Export-Import and the Bulgarian foreign-trade enterprise Agromaschinainpex agreed on the reciprocal exchange of goods in the area of the construction of farm machinery. There are plans for the export of seed processing facilities, field choppers, high-pressure presses, swath-forming mowers and spare parts for farm machinery to Bulgaria. At the same time, the importation of component assemblies for combine harvesters, including Boerner worm gears, rear axles and shaft housings, was made contractually binding. A contract for the delivery of more than 100 electronically controlled high-performance weaving machines to the GDR was signed by the foreign-trade enterprise TEXTIMA Export-Import and the French firm Saurer-Diederichs SA. These machines are used in the Wool and Silk Combine, Meerane, in the production of fashionable fabrics for women's outer wear. At the same time, an agreement was reached for the sale of GDR products to France through the year 1988. A contract was signed by the foreign-trade enterprise Industrieanlagen-Import and the French firm Citroen for the delivery of equipment for machine building. The Japanese commercial firm Mitsubishi Corporation and a consortium of GDR foreign-trade enterprises led by Elektrotechnik Export-Import signed an agreement in Leipzig. It provides for the further development of business relations in 1987. Reciprocal deliveries of electrotechnical, chemical, and machine-building products and cooperation in third markets are planned. The enterprise Textima-Export/Import reports export agreements on stitch-bonding machines with partners in the United States and on double carpet gripper machines with Turkey. GDR foreign-trade enterprises entered into import agreements on thermal controls with partners in Bulgaria and on electroceramic products with enterprises in the CSSR. Metallurgiehandel and the Hungarian enterprise Metalimpex agreed on the importation of aluminum pig and bauxite by the GDR. [Text] [East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4 Sep 86 p 4] 9746

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ECONOMY

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

CONFERENCE IDENTIFIES CRITERIA FOR IMPLEMENTING ROBOTICS

East Berlin WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFT in German Vol 34 No 9, Sep 86 pp 1400-05

[Article by Klaus Falk/Wolfgang Richter: "The Efficiency of Technological Units and Complex Automation Solutions With Industrial Robotics"]

[Text] On 27 November 1985, the Third User Conference of the interdisciplinary "Industrial Robot" research group was held at the Bruno Leuschner College for Economy in Berlin on the subject "The Efficiency of Technological Units and Complex Automation Solutions With Industrial Robots." Representatives from combines and enterprises, state authorities and scientific installations of the GDR and USSR took part in the conference.

In his greeting, the rector of the college, Prof Dr Sieber, pointed out the great importance of the economizing of key technologies for the development of our community of states as well as for the struggle for peace. In this connection, he praised the interdisciplinary cooperation of representatives of different scientific fields and students of the youth project in the "Industrial Robot" research group.

In the work of the research group, it is currently a matter of making use of the results achieved so far in the measuring of efficiency and in influencing the efficiency of the utilization of industrial robots for flexible automation.

Thus, the goal of the conference was to present the research and work results of the "Industrial Robot" interdisciplinary research group and to exchange experiences and findings on the ways and possibilities for the measurement, evaluation and active control of the efficiency behavior of technological units and flexible automation solutions with industrial robots.

In the main report, "The Efficiency of Technological Units and Complex Automation Solutions With Industrial Robotics," Prof Dr Roessel (College for Economy) discussed the following focal points:

--Theoretical starting positions on questions on influencing the efficiency of flexible automation;

--Problems in the measurement, evaluation and active control of technological units with industrial robots;

--Methods and tasks in the measurement of the efficiency of complex automation solutions.

The starting position is determined by the theoretical and practical investigation of numerous influence factors of the efficiency behavior and by their systematization and quantification. The establishment of factor complexes influencing efficiency creates the preconditions for a deeper permeation of the structure and utilization of flexible automation solutions and for influencing their efficiency.

The reduction of the processes to their structural and use components and the derivation of essential magnitudes of expenditures and results allows one to recognize the following consequences:

--The structure and utilization of the processes are essential supports of the achievable efficiency.

--Structure and utilization can be permeated and controlled through interdisciplinary efforts only, for in themselves they are complex.

--More attention must be paid to the planning and changing of structures in the scope of intensification and modernization.

--The further development of structures forces one to consider new ideas for the utilization of automated solutions.

To measure and evaluate technological units with industrial robots, a method was worked out that includes the investigation of

--the internal structure,

--the target adequacy of the structure and

--the relations to existing and future conditions.

Taking into account the tasks necessary for its improvement, this evaluation method is suitable

--as an instrument to indicate reserves and weaknesses in the existing technological units and to derive conclusions for their improvement,

--as a basis for a general increase in the level of structural formation for technological units in the preparation phase.

Considerable research work still needs to be done with respect to the measurement of the efficiency of complex automation solutions. There are a number of findings on the efficiency behavior of these solutions, initial attempts at measuring efficiency, and a number of thoughts on influencing efficiency.

In evaluating various initial attempts at systematization, it is proposed that the effects of complex automation be subdivided in the following manner:

1. Effects that arise directly in the changing of the process structure:

- Effects from the control of the time factor;
- Effects from the control of flexibility;
- Effects from the control of substitution;
- Effects from the improvement of quality;
- Effects from the improvement of social conditions.

2. Effects that substantially determine the nature and scope of the evaluation of the first group of effects:

- effects from the subsequent utilization of the process change and its production scale;
- reference and learning effects;
- effects from the avoidance of special losses.

For measurement, it continues to be important to observe the chains of effects on efficiency. So it is of interest to determine how the effects develop through the various levels of the enterprise and which inherent laws or conditions determine whether these effects increase or are lost in the processes.

In his contribution, "Economy of Complex Flexible Automation, Proceeding from Problems Seen in Practice in Two Automation Projects Decided for the Combine," Dr Zerressen (VEB "7 October" Machine Tool Combine in Berlin) delved into some economic questions having to do with the realization of automation projects in practice. His comments confirm the basic ideas of the main report.

As derived from the international development trends in complex automation, the enterprises face the problems of the overall consideration and evaluation of the efficiency of their solutions as well as of the substantive interpretation of the indices themselves. The necessity of the rational resolution of the impending practical tasks results in the requirement that science develop a program package that gives the manager the possibility of forecasting the long-term effects of flexible solutions at little cost.

Prof Dr Tretyakov (Moscow Machine Tool Institute) pointed out the formation of contradictions between the local optimum of enterprise efficiency and the global optimum of national economic efficiency in connection with the development of integrated automated systems. Using the example of relative costs, he demonstrated that the currently valid calculation models are tailored to the conditions of an extensive development of the national economy and therefore require new ideas.

The problem of the efficiency of complex automation solutions was taken up by Prof Dr Fischer (Karl Marx College under the SED Central Committee) and related to questions of the creative collaboration of the workers in the preparation phase. Important experiences in this connection can be generalized as follows:

- The demanding tasks make long-term conceptual work necessary.
- The inclusion of the production workers should be project-related.
- The workers to be included are to be selected purposefully, prepared specifically, and trained if necessary.
- Certain functional areas and fields of action are especially well suited for inclusion.

Engineer Paine (VEB Berlin Brake Works) took a position on some practical experiences in the use of complex automation solutions. He demonstrated in an exemplary manner that the successful realization of integrated production sections is substantially dependent upon the development of their own building of rationalization means. The experiences accumulated by the enterprises can be summarized as follows:

- The successful realization of complex automation solutions requires the concentration of all forces and resources on key tasks.
- The robots are to be selected and used so as to achieve comprehensive automation of the production sections.
- The workers who will work in the new facilities are to be selected early and purposefully prepared for their employment.

These practical experiences were confirmed by Dr Richter (Berlin Furniture Combine). A number of industrial robots are in use in this combine. The best results are achieved where it is not a matter of the sporadic utilization of modern technology but of complex rationalization measures. A specific problem in the combine involves the fact that a combination of industrial robotics with traditional processing machines makes little sense for the automation of in themselves closed sections. The required improvement in performance can be achieved only through the simultaneous employment of high-performance processing machines.

The tasks that must be resolved in combination with flexible automation in the enterprises and combines were the focus of the comments by Dr Berteit (Economic Research Center of the State Planning Commission). He discussed some development aspects of automation in the years from 1980 to 1990 and derived from them some key tasks to be resolved in the enterprises and combines. In connection with the evaluation of the efficiency of flexible automation solutions, he indicated the problems in the interpretation of some economic indices.

In his contribution, diplomate economist Naundorf (Karl-Marx-Stadt Research Center for Machine Tool Building) took up some questions in the detection and demonstration of the economic effects of complex automation solutions. In reference to the illustration of a practical example, he pointed out the contradiction between the requirements for the demonstration of economic effects and the tools available for this. It must also be noted that automation puts increased demands on the capacity synchronization of the enterprise areas. For this purpose, methodical bases are required for the optimization of technological structures.

Dr Stieler (College for Economics) delved into the relationships between social and economic effects in the use of industrial robots. The social effects of scientific-technical progress lead to qualitative and quantitative changes in the structure, utilization and further development of the working facilities. They can be summarized in the following groupings:

- social effects of the substitution embodied for living labor;
- social effects in the change of the nature and content of labor;
- social effects of the change in the working conditions;
- social effects of the change in the qualification requirements and utilization of qualification;
- social effects of the change in the performance behavior;

These effects can occur in different directions and for different periods of time. The objective of socialist society is thereby to realize positive social effects in the sense of social progress and, at the same time, to anticipate and prevent negative social effects or to make their manifestation temporary. Stieler used examples to demonstrate the possibilities for quantifying and evaluating social effects that are positive and to be sought or negative and to be avoided.

Dr Ziegenbein (Dresden Technical University) developed these principles on the unity of economic and social efficiency in the employment of industrial robots with a contribution on the long-term selection, securing and preparation of the workers for their future employment in the production process with industrial robotics. The available research results indicate the following:

- The formation and application of positive attitudes in the case of changes in the work tasks or workplace in connection with the introduction of industrial robotics requires labor-scientific analyses and organizational work.
- The attitude of the workers toward automation is influenced by the quality of the qualification measures, the provisions for material and ideological stimulation, and the measures to improve the operational working and living conditions and to solve social problems (increase in shift work, for example).

--The interest of skilled workers as well as college and technical school personnel in new equipment is well defined. The acceptance of greater responsibility and necessary training are not, to be sure, dominant objectives for the change in activities but the change in work requirements is accepted and assessed positively.

Dr Fleischer and diplomate economist Hellriegel (Central Institute for Economic Sciences of the GDR Academy of Sciences) spoke on the requirements and possibilities for the improvement of the relationship between the rate of growth of labor productivity and the provision of the labor force with equipment. To achieve greater economic effects, not only must the quality of the technological solutions and the operational environment of the robots be further developed but above all one must also increase the scope of their employment where the development of production permits the achievement of large effects. The creation of comprehensive solutions in process automation becomes an important characteristic of intensification.

Dr Grund and the student Zdrojek (interdisciplinary youth project "Industrial Robot" at the College for Economics) presented the principles of the methods that they worked out for evaluating the efficiency of industrial robots. The tested methods consider the unity of technology and organization in the overall efficiency evaluation of technological units. With the help of three investigative complexes, the elements of technological unity and its interaction are quantified or estimated, making possible research on weak points and a comparison with other technological units:

1. Analysis of the set-up and structure of the technological unit (in the case, for example, of the work tool; technical level/degree of automation, degree of depreciation, reliability, operating time without breakdowns, flexibility, and modular type of construction);
2. Investigation of the utilization of the technological unit under operational conditions (use of the potential work facilities, for example);
3. Investigation of the objectives required by the technological unit and achieved (plan fulfillment analysis, for example).

According to Grund and Zdrojek, the nonuniform, insufficiently complex and very subjective documentation for the evaluation of cases of the use of industrial robots is still an obstacle to the application of this method. The working out of uniform classification groups for evaluating the efficiency of technological units is therefore an urgent task of the youth project.

Dr Teich (Dresden Technical University) discussed some problems in connection with the demonstration of the development of labor productivity in the use of industrial robotics. Proceeding from the experience that this cannot always be demonstrated thoroughly, some possible applications and limitations of methods for the calculation of labor productivity are presented.

Prof Dr Duesterwald and diplomate economist Rauer (Karl Marx University in Leipzig) demonstrated the necessity of the timely integration of automation projects in the formation of the cycle of intensively expanded reproduction in

the combines. The point of departure for their views is the unity of the measures-related and area-related (enterprises and combines) evaluation of a project for flexible automation. Technical-technological and economic differences in the production areas are analyzed with the help of plan fulfillment analyses between existing and new technology as well as from a summarizing view of prime-cost reduction, the increase in profit, and the payback period.

From the difference in capacities (capacity deficit through excessive processing times, for example) are derived the measures for the further improvement of the project and the change in its structure to secure the proportionality conditions of intensively expanded reproduction. From this, Duesterwald and Rauer derive the formation of a new chain of effects: reproduction process--main members in the chain of the dynamic and flexible development of output--projects for flexible automation.

Selection problems of flexible automation and robotization were the focus of the contribution by Dr Baranov (Moscow Machine Tool Institute). The structuring and dimensioning of the technical-technological solutions depend upon economic criteria. Nevertheless, criteria currently applied do not always make similar and unequivocal statements. One way to solve this problem could be in assigning the criteria of different levels to flexible automation.

At the conclusion of the user conference, Roessel, the head of the interdisciplinary research group "Industrial Robot," thanked all the speakers for the high scientific level and the constructiveness of their contributions. In the course of the conference, it was confirmed that there is a great deal of interest in the subject of the conference both in theory and in practice. Practical requirements are thereby becoming more and more urgent in view of the forced technological development. They correspond to the available results of scientific work and permit conclusions for future research work.

In conclusion, Roessel stated that it is in the interest of all conference participants to continue the exchange of experiences in the form of the user conference.

9746
CSO: 2300/2

ECONOMY

HUNGARY

MINISTRY URGES IMPORTERS TO SEEK COMPETITION AMONG SUPPLIERS

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 31 Jul 86 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Trade is encouraging Hungarian enterprises that import goods to do all they can in connection with future purchases from abroad to make sellers compete with one another, it was stated to an MTI reporter by Chief of Main Department Andras Patko.

He said that it has become a common practice in international trade to have a purchaser organize competitive bidding in the case of a major purchase. In such so-called tenders the competing sellers endeavor to improve delivery conditions, among other things to reduce the price and the purchaser can select the bid it finds most advantageous. Up to now, Hungarian enterprises have seldom organized any competitive bidding in their import purchases; this became a general practice primarily in World Bank investments made in Hungary. Experience in this area is generally favorable. For this very reason, the Ministry of Foreign Trade is encouraging enterprises to select their contractors by competitive bidding when they make purchases. Exceptions are made chiefly in the case of products which are of strategic significance to the national economy or those articles whose procurement is governed by interstate obligations. Tenders are also inadmissible when the international obligations of the enterprises do not permit them. In all other areas, however, competitive bidding is possible.

In the case of purchases from enterprise sources, Hungarian economic units decide independently whether they will import in the traditional manner or by means of tenders. However, the ministry considers it desirable to use the competitive-bidding method as widely as possible. A number of measures have been adopted to set up the conditions necessary for this. The Hungarian Chamber of Commerce is organizing a consulting service to help enterprises organize competitive bidding. The Chamber will start training courses to provide specialists for foreign-trade enterprises, and it will publish a handbook entitled "A Guide to Tenders." In addition, it will provide assistance to enterprises in obtaining funds to cover the excess costs connected with competitive bidding--for example, the costs of meeting the organizational requirements; during the initial stage, the central authorities will reimburse enterprises for part of these costs.

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CSO: 2500/434

ECONOMY

HUNGARY

FOREIGN TRADE VENTURES INCREASE; STRAINS OF COMPETITION GROW

Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 6 Aug 86 p 3

[Text] (MTI) More than 280 enterprises have already been granted independent foreign-trading rights, and more and more producers are giving consideration to organizing their own foreign-trade activities. The experience obtained with the law introduced in January of this year is basically favorable.

Licenses--within 45 days

Peter Naray, deputy chief of main department in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, announced that during the first half of this year 11 enterprises have been granted independent foreign-trading rights on the basis of the new law. Seventeen enterprises have been granted the right to expand their foreign-trade activities, and individual-case export licenses have been issued on 460 occasions.

With the introduction of the new law--which is part of the updating process begun several years ago in the organization of foreign trade--the ministry has further simplified the awarding of permanent foreign-trading rights. Instead of the previous one form, it has introduced two forms of licensing. The so-called simplified system offers a new opportunity: in response to an application submitted in accordance with this law, the Ministry of Foreign Trade will issue the license within 45 days. This year the ministry has issued four such licenses, in response to applications from Hungaria Muanyagfeldolgozo Vallalat, Rolitron Muszaki Fejlesztési Kiszovetkezet, and two multi-purpose enterprises operating in Hungary.

Gradually

Licensing procedures of the previous type--carried out on an individual basis--have also been simplified, with their time-limits reduced from 90 days to 60 days. The ministry has issued seven licenses in this manner. At present it is engaged in processing 14 more applications for permanent foreign-trading rights and is also examining 25 which relate to the expansion of foreign-trade activities.

Experience indicates that at many enterprises it is still impossible to satisfy the organizational and financial requirements for independent foreign

trade. Even these organizations have not given up the idea of entering foreign markets independently at a later date. In most places, they are making preparations gradually. At the beginning, they usually apply for individual-case rights in order to transact an individual deal, deciding on the basis of this whether it is worth their while to apply for permanent rights. This method, by the way, is supported by the ministry as well.

An essential feature of the new decree is that 38 enterprises and economic organizations which possess foreign-trading rights have automatically been granted an opportunity to engage in parallel foreign trade. These enterprises may, in addition to specified articles, engage in the convertible export and import of any product. This measure is expected to bring to fruition the favorable effects of competition.

Among themselves

Experience thus far has been mixed. The new arrangement undoubtedly makes it easier for enterprises to tie their exports to their imports. This has already made it possible to carry out a number of profitable transactions. But enterprises still have to learn the methods of solving the conflicts that accompany competition and also learn the form of cooperation. Today they still turn in many cases to the ministry instead of settling the disputed questions among themselves. The Hungarian Chamber of Commerce will have an important role to play in settling conflicts between enterprises and working out the rules of fair competition.

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

PAPP INTERVIEWED ON HUNGARIAN-SOVIET COOPERATION

AU011354 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 26 Sep 86 p 3

[Interview given by Laszlo Papp, deputy chairman of the National Technological Development Commission, to correspondent Tamas Szonyei; "New Forms With New Content--Interview with Dr Laszlo Papp, Deputy Chairman of the National Technological Development Commission on the Development of Hungarian-Soviet Technological and Scientific Cooperation," date and place not given--first paragraph is newspaper's introduction]

[Text] Hungarian-Soviet technological and scientific cooperation is a system of relations that looks back over a past of several decades and has brought rather useful results, a system of relations that is playing an increasing role nowadays in promoting the intensification of the economy, making production more efficient, and assisting the production of internationally competitive products. What are the main areas of deepening and widening this cooperation and the forms of its implementation?--we asked Dr Laszlo Papp.

[Papp] The most traditional form of cooperation is the regular meeting between experts and their consultations aimed at exchanging experiences and getting better acquainted with various technologies. A form of cooperation that is one grade higher is the coordination of research and development activity and its continuation within the framework of cooperation.

To Change Course

[Szonyei] In the speech he gave in the Csepel Works in June, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that the road leading to the intensification of the people's economy led through the introduction of the most up-to-date technology. Obviously, this presupposes the acceleration of international cooperation and a better acquaintance with each other's achievements. In your everyday work do you also experience a demand on the part of your Soviet partners for the renewal of technological and scientific relations and for the acceleration of development?

[Papp] Absolutely. So much so that sometimes I feel that the increased demands have found the current economic mechanism and the active organizations unprepared to a certain extent. This, of course, simply means that a more advanced cooperation system than hitherto will develop sooner or later, and then the balance between demands and practice will be restored at a higher

level. It is to be hoped that, in addition to the traditional forms of cooperation, other forms will also soon emerge in which the partner's obligations are written down in civil law contracts based on mutual interests and containing mutual responsibilities. This will provide both sides with greater security and can also increase the efficiency of the planning, investment, and production organization phases following the joint research and development activity.

[Szonyei] Here you mean the direct contacts between enterprises and research institutes?

[Papp] Yes. There has been an increase in both sides' interest in this lately. Of course, there are also various forms of cooperation in this area. The otherwise totally independent partners could, for example, stipulate in a document the remuneration due for carrying out a given technological-development task--this can be money or the solving of another type of problem. I could also mention the licensing agreement, that is, an agreement to purchase a known result. A level of cooperation one grade higher is when the partners establish and maintain a joint technological-development collective aimed at achieving the jointly formulated goal. The establishment of joint enterprises could be the most developed form of cooperation. In this case, a decision is made not only on the implementation of a given task or the operation of the joint intellectual capacity but also on the practical utilization and marketing of the subsequent results.

[Szonyei] Are the conditions for establishing and operating joint enterprises also present?

[Papp] Many questions are still to be clarified, last but not least there is also the exact concept of a joint enterprise. We must work out the economic, financial, legal, regulation, and management framework. There is extremely intensive work going on in this respect. Everything must be thoroughly analyzed, we must get to know each other's problems, and bridges must be built between the different economic management regulations in the two socialist countries and the operational rules of the joint enterprises. This does not happen overnight. Anyhow, today both sides stress the importance of developing direct contacts between the economic units. I must add, however, that all this cannot work without a certain level of enterprise independence. In Hungary--at least legally--the enterprises possess this independence even if the existing economic circumstances do not always allow this independence to be fully asserted. A similar development--oriented toward increasing enterprise independence--is also outlined in the recent declarations made by the Soviet leaders, particularly since the 27th CPSU Congress.

Always a Shortage of Something

[Szonyei] In addition to the abovementioned setting of economic and other conditions, another fundamental condition for higher-level technological and scientific cooperation is money.

[Papp] Well, yes, this is something of which there is always a shortage. The demands always exceed the possibilities; this is an old truth, this is one of the driving forces of development. Neither side has enough money to implement all the concepts immediately. Our government has decided, however, that wherever it serves the fast and adequate level of implementation of our technological development goals, we will also financially assist the Hungarian institutes and enterprises in their efforts to join this cooperation. I must add that we can hope for the efforts aimed at making use of the advantages inherent in cooperation and for the desirable level of participation only if the enterprises themselves are indeed interested in this cooperation, something that at the same time justifies for them too, the financial contribution to the mutually advantageous cooperation.

In All Five Main Directions

[Szonyei] What are the areas in which Hungary can contribute most to the expansion of Hungarian-Soviet technological and scientific relations?

[Papp] First of all, the areas where we have already achieved results that are also worthy of international attention or where we can achieve such results soon, provided our partner also requires help in the given area. If we start from the CEMA countries' comprehensive development program, I can say that there is a need for active Hungarian participation in all five main areas: electronization; automation; nuclear energy; biotechnology; and new materials and technologies. Thus, for example, in the area of certain computer technologies, including systems technology, software development activities, and certain microelectronic measuring instruments; also in the area of installations necessary for the safe operation of nuclear power stations or the development of automatic cassette-transferring installations which requires extreme precision; as well as in the development of the complex computer system for nuclear reactor diagnosis and safe reactor control. From the widespread area of biotechnology, I can mention our latest methods in the introduction of issue breeding or the embryomanipulation processes used in animal husbandry. On his visit to Hungary, Mikhail Gorbachev also studied the biotechnological results of the Meriklon Economic Association with great interest.

[Szonyei] And what are the areas in which we count most on our partners' help?

[Papp] Of course, in areas where we have weak points, in order to avoid a halt in the desired and decided development of the production structure as a result of an inadequate level of research and development capacities in the given area. I think our lagging behind in new materials and technology research is greater than average. Through cooperation, we count on acquiring knowledge that we would otherwise need a much longer time to get. I would stress, however, that there are also certain subareas within this rather new and unexploited area in which we have good results like, for example, in the development of strand-strengthening [szalerosito] concrete or of certain

amorphous materials. We need assistance, among other things, in the development of the necessary technological installations for the production of highly complex integrated circuits, and precisely in the development of chemical industry technologies, which are very important, although they are not among the five main areas of the comprehensive development program. There is rather intensive Hungarian-Soviet cooperation in the intertwining areas of automation and electronics. We have considerable results in working out the software packages necessary for operating automated systems, but we are lagging behind in preparing the seemingly simple and small elements needed for the reliable operation of the system, like for example, switches, sensors, micromotors for control gear, etc.

[The following passage appears as a box in the body of the interview]

Cooperation--In Figures

In the past 5 years Hungarian-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation has covered more than 400 subjects. On the Hungarian side 250 and on the Soviet side 300 organizations have participated in the work, which resulted in the development of 150 items of new machinery, equipment, and instruments; 30 new materials; 60 new or further developed technologies; and the elaboration of more than 100 technology and planning documents. Preparations also began in order to develop more efficient forms of cooperation. During the previous plan period the parties involved signed 19 agreements and 100 civil law contracts.

The organizations involved coordinated 390 subjects for cooperation for the period between 1986-1990, and of these 270 are intended to be worked out on a contractual basis. The Hungarian-Soviet Scientific and Technological Subcommittee set out concrete priorities with regard to the regular examination of 110 programs included in the CEMA comprehensive program and with regard to an additional 100 subjects which will help to realize significant development programs. The majority of these subjects are aimed at the development of minimum prototypes and the organization of manufacturing based on either specialization or cooperation.

They extended up to 1990 the agreement made in 1983 on "The Development of Computer Networks and Telecommunication Processing Facilities and Systems," within the framework of which 7 Hungarian and 15 Soviet agencies are cooperating in 19 areas. There are many subjects for joint development. The most significant use of these refers to the areas of raw materials and energy resources, but good results have also been achieved in the fields of data exchange and the operation of industrial processes. As a new task, the development of a system for computer engineering and design has been included in the subjects for cooperation.

Some Results From the Most Diverse Areas

In 1984-1985 three Soviet exploration ships were equipped with jointly-developed automatic computer command systems, which were made in Hungary, in order to collect and process oceanographic information. The research and development program is continuing. An explosion-proof seismic laboratory for mining was developed and its specialized production will begin in our country in 1986. During the work to increase the supply of chemical agents and extremely pure materials, the cooperating agencies worked out 26 technologies, of which 14 will be used instead of capitalist processes. Hungarian experts introduced their Soviet colleagues to industrial processing systems for use in agriculture and, although these systems have not as yet begun, to be applied, certain parts of them are utilized. Cooperating institutes dealing with plant-breeding managed to develop several varieties of special plants by using biotechnology to a certain extent. These varieties are now being used, and joint selection work is continuing with regard to several fodder plants (lucerne, cover, etc.).

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

LIMIT ON LIABILITY OF BANKRUPT PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS URGED

Budapest OTLET in Hungarian 5 Jun 86 p 29

[Article by Andras Deak: "Closing the Back Door"]

[Text] Why does a workers' business partnership convert itself into a small cooperative? It could be, for example, because of legal personality, which has been mentioned so often in our column--more precisely, because of the lack of it. Even if a small enterprise loses money temporarily, it finds it easier to obtain credit, and others are more willing to conclude deals with it, if it is a legal personality. Thus its chances for survival are improved. But from a certain viewpoint, the same is true of professional associations for whose activities and losses the founding producer cooperatives are financially liable. It can easily happen, therefore, that because the professional association piles losses upon losses, it is the producer cooperative that goes bankrupt.

Although no exact statistics on this have been prepared, several thousand small enterprises every year are forced to the brink of bankruptcy. Financial bankruptcy raises a number of unanswered questions especially for workers' business partnerships. Since these small enterprises do not have an independent legal personality and the common property that this implies, the debts can be collected only from the individual members of the workers' business partnerships as citizens. According to the latest sections of the law, members of small enterprises are required to pay from their private property only if the creditors sue for the various debts.

Thus it becomes necessary to institute lengthy lawsuits and evidentiary proceedings, and in practice, in a significant percentage of the cases it is solely up to the debtors to decide whether or not they are willing to pay. Although in theory it is possible to resort to various coercive measures--such as compulsory payment or auction--experience shows that these are not very effective.

Why? It is one of the harsh laws of economic life that every member of a small-enterprisewho can do so will try to save his property, or at least part of it, so as to be able to use this money for another and more successful enterprise. And this action does not necessarily mean that he is dishonest. Often the members of small-enterprise keep rolling the debts in front of

them in the hope that sooner or later they will make a major deal and settle their financial problems.

When we think about it, it is in fact an extremely severe regulation that imposes on members of small-enterprises direct, unlimited, and joint liability for the enterprise's losses and debts. (Joint liability means that the creditors may in theory require any member of the Workers' Business partnership to pay the entire debt, after which the members of the small enterprise share the loss among themselves.) In the absence of appropriate sections of the bankruptcy law, the Ministry of Justice does not see any other solution at present for the enforcement of property liability.

On the other hand, this situation is extremely harmful, from not one but two points of view. First of all, it virtually compels members of small-enterprises to transfer their more valuable items of property--land or real estate--to someone else's name and thus safeguard them against possible confiscation for debt. The other possibility for escaping from unduly severe liability is to seek forms of enterprise in which there is some kind of common property background behind the economic activity, whether the background is that of a producer cooperative or of some other legal person. This is the reason, among other things, for the aforementioned metamorphosis of workers business partnerships into professional associations or small cooperatives.

The situation is therefore somewhat contradictory. While, according to the law, the property liability of the members of those small enterprises which have no legal personality is extremely severe--direct, unlimited, and joint--in actuality the creditors are least protected when dealing with this form of enterprise, since in practice when bankruptcy is declared, they can collect little or none of their money. In most cases they must compromise with the debtors and may consider themselves lucky if they can maintain the uncollectable debt in their bookkeeping, their account books, for as long as possible, so that at least it will not appear on the balance sheet as a performance-reducing item.

What solution could be found for this? Well, evidently we would need a system of legal regulations that would impose a true-to-life and realistic framework on the liability for losses that naturally goes with the risk involved in an enterprise. The protection of the interests of purchasers and creditors and the safety of business also require that there be a possibility of obtaining, even before a contract is concluded, some information concerning the true financial situation of the small enterprise and concerning guarantees that payment of legitimate claims can be enforced. After all, this too is a part of honesty in business life.

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

NEW TAX OFFICE MEANS MORE CONTROL, MORE REVENUES

Budapest HETI VILAGGAZDASAG in Hungarian 12 Jul 86 p 56

[Text] On 1 July a new authority, known as the tax-assessing office, was set up in Budapest and in the country's 19 county seats. With this change, according to the expectations of the Ministry of Finance, tax audits will become more frequent and the amount collected for the central and local budgets will be increased.

Of the approximately 250,000 citizens of Hungary who pay income tax, 5-7 percent are audited by the tax authorities each year. Now that the tax-assessing offices have been set up, the Ministry of Finance hopes to do no less than double this number, that is to say, tax audits will cover 10-15 percent of taxpayers each year.

"By organizing this new office, we have been able to expand the capacity of the tax-audit authorities without adding a single person to Hungary's governmental payroll," emphasizes Chief of Department Miklos Karolyi of the Ministry of Finance. This is because simultaneously with the start of operations at the tax-assessing offices, the KIOSZ (National Organization of Artisans) and the KISOSZ (National Free Organization of Retailers) have been relieved of their previous tax-assessing duties: the 500 or so employees working in their communal-taxation offices have been transferred to the new authority. Thus, the personnel of the new offices has been recruited essentially from the KIOSZ and the KISOSZ.

When we asked how tax auditing in Hungary can be made more frequent by mere reorganization, the Ministry of Finance replied that this new centralization of the tax administration will necessarily make auditing more effective. Up to now, we were told, a total of four kinds of organizations--the KIOSZ, the KISOSZ, the fees and dues offices (in the case of operators of contractual businesses), and local councils (in the case, for example, of creative artists and writers) were entitled to assess taxes. Now that a unified tax-assessing authority has been set up, however, the "formula" will be clearer: the income tax paid by the population and the turnover tax paid by artisans and retailers will be assessed on a unified basis by the tax-assessing offices, while the fees and dues offices will henceforth concern themselves exclusively with the auditing of tax returns.

"The establishment of the new office is neither the first nor the last step in the strengthening of Hungary's tax apparatus," says the Ministry of Finance. Six months ago, on 1 January 1986, the ministry had already formed a 28-member central tax-assessment group within the organization of its Auditing Main Directorate. This group is in fact a super-auditing authority which has the right to assume competence for any tax matter arising anywhere in the country and may monitor the local tax apparatuses themselves. The operational "tax staff" examines primarily complicated cases--often involving suspicion of crimes--and not infrequently does so in collaboration with the economic police or the Customs and Internal Revenue Police.

Tax revenues and fees and dues revenues collected from the population have been increasing in Hungary in recent years, especially since the establishment of small enterprises was licensed. Last year the increase was 31 percent: these payments made by the population amounted in 1984 to 16.7 billion forints, but in 1985 they were 22 billion. The majority of this money was paid to local councils; today this is the source of 10-60 percent of local councils' income. The Ministry of Finance believes that concealed individual taxes in the country amount to an additional several billion forints a year. This estimate is based on the fact that last year, after auditing 6-7 percent of taxpayers, the tax authorities subsequently levied 342 million forints in taxes. The ministry also expects that more frequent audits will improve tax-paying morality, or, to put it somewhat differently, will increase the total amount of taxes paid.

It will also want the new tax apparatus to perform a further task (although it is not yet clear just how): tax debts which have proved impossible to collect out of wages or minor movable property should henceforth be collected by the tax enforcement authorities through the forced sale of any real estate the taxpayer may own. The uncollectable amount of tax debts and fees and dues debts owed by the population in Hungary is currently estimated at 1.3 billion forints.

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

OPINION POLL GAUGES EFFECTS OF SMALL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Budapest OTLET in Hungarian 7 Aug 86 pp 18-19

[Text] The purpose of our opinion poll conducted in early July and encompassing 273 respondents was to find out what the people of Budapest between the ages of 18 and 50 think about small entrepreneurship as such and about small enterprise activities. Before conducting the poll, it seemed appropriate to clarify just what people understand under small enterprises. Because in everyday life, obviously, nobody thinks in legal or state administrative terms. (Official jargon dubs small enterprises "domestic partnerships without juristic personality.")

The first conclusion one can draw from the survey is that people, in general, do not take notice of fine (if somewhat embarrassing) distinctions, namely that there is such a thing as small entrepreneurship on the one hand, and a private sector in the traditional sense of the word, on the other. In everyday use the concepts of small enterprise and private sector are mostly synonymized. Most people consider the gm (business partnership) a small enterprise in the same way they would a "passenger transporting small entrepreneur" or the corner hamburger vendor. This manifested itself in various forms in the course of the survey.

In connection with the subject at hand, the first question we asked was: "What comes to mind first when you hear the word 'small enterprise'?" In 41 percent of replies mention was made of organizational form or peoples' economy sector. One-third of this group mentioned small entrepreneurial form exclusively (the majority mentioned gm or vgm (enterprise business partnership)), while two-thirds of respondents mentioned as examples either "maszeks" [private sector] only, or the private sector and the small enterprise as well.

The synonymity was even broader when we posed the question pointedly: "What do you consider a small enterprise" of the ones enumerated and "What don't you?" (viz. Table 1)

There are no basic differences between the groups of various educational backgrounds and occupations. True, fewer intellectuals consider maszeks to be small entrepreneurs than do, e.g. unskilled and skilled workers. (Some 56 percent to 76 percent of professionals thought that the hamburger vendor,

the taxi owner-driver, the maszek automechanic and the concessionaire of a beer hall are all small entrepreneurs. Corresponding proportions among unskilled workers and helpers are between 76 percent and 84 percent, which is considerably higher than proportions recorded among office workers and skilled workers.) Though even according to an absolute majority of intellectuals, any small industrial or small commercial unit counts as a small enterprise, and college degree notwithstanding they are, in the case of vgmks or special group cooperatives, essentially of the same opinion as those who have primary school education or less. (The only exception was the "civil law partnership," which was placed in the small enterprise category by 65 percent of college graduates, 48 percent of high school graduates and 28 percent of those with no more than primary school education.)

Table 1

What can be considered a small enterprise?

Business partnership (gmk)	80%
Private taxi	73%
Hamburger vendor	72%
Enterprise business partnership (vgmk)	63%
Concession contract beer hall	61%
Small enterprise auto repair shop	61%
Special group cooperative	45%
Civil law partnership	44%
Domestic industry cooperative	19%
Branch enterprise	15%

Total number of respondents: 273 persons.

In view of the foregoing it is hardly surprising that according to a majority of people, small enterprises are not considered a novelty. Because when we asked, "To your knowledge, how long have we had small enterprises?" 45 percent of respondents said about 4 or 5 years. Some 22 percent guessed "At least 10 years," while 31 percent thought small enterprises "Have been around since pre-liberation times." (The quoted replies pertained to the wording of the questions.)

And how do people view the activities of the "maszek type small enterprises"? (The words between quotation marks are those of one of the respondents.) Some 81 percent of those participating in the survey agreed that "Members of small enterprises must assume greater risks and responsibilities than others." (If at the work place of a respondent or of one of his family members there exists a vgmk, the proportion of agreeing answers is 89 percent, while if there is no vgmk, the proportion is "only" 75 percent.) According to 75 percent of respondents "Members of small enterprises work harder than others," and 65 percent believe that "They pay (very) much in taxes to the state." (Significant tax burdens were mentioned by 81 percent of college graduates, 64 percent of high school graduates and 54 percent of those with no more than primary school education.)

The effects of the existence and activities of small enterprises are viewed by the people with considerably less unanimity, but the balance seems to tip toward the positive aspects. We asked a separate question as to whether or not they "represent an advantage, a boon for the country or the population," and another question as to whether or not they "are detrimental or disadvantageous" from the same point of view. We treated the two replies jointly and the results are as follows: according to 54 percent there is an advantage to small enterprises; 37 percent thought they have both advantages and disadvantages, while only 6 percent mentioned disadvantages only. It should be pointed out that we asked an additional question to those who mentioned both potential consequences. To the question, "Which do you consider more important?," the majority of the said 37-percent group preferred the "advantages."

Those who see only advantages and boons are in absolute majority in all occupation groups. Among those who mentioned both sides of the coin, it was the intellectuals whose proportion was above average, while negative opinions came mostly from blue collar workers. (Viz. Table 2)

Table 2

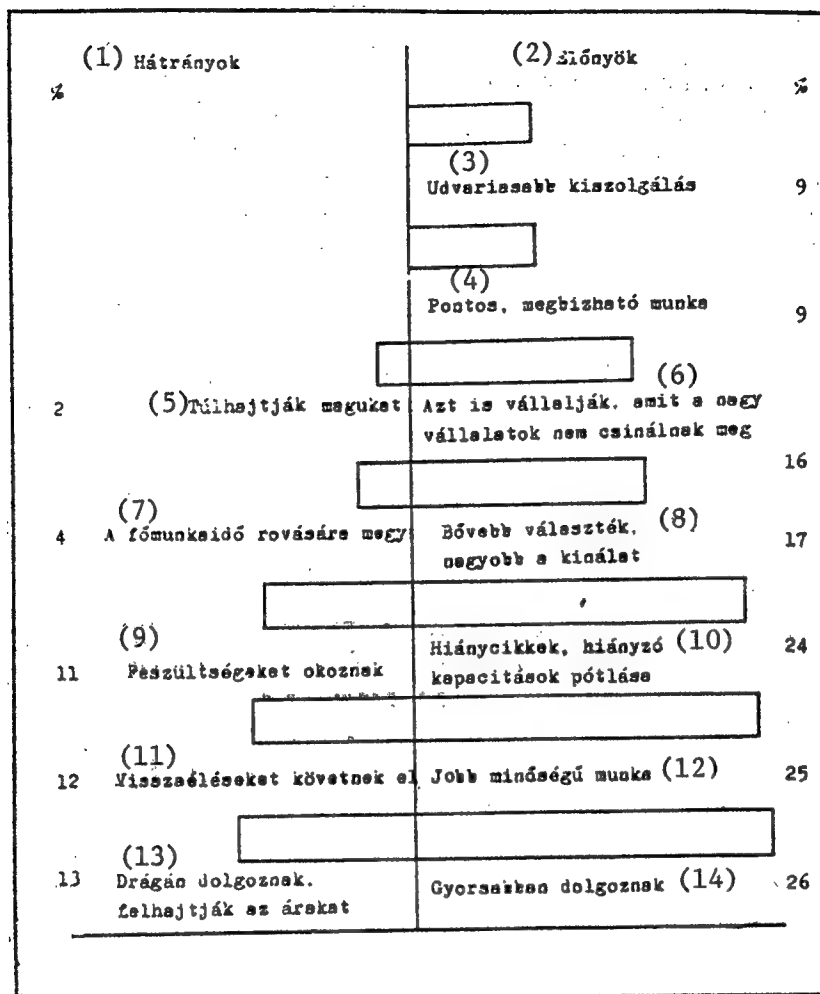
Advantages or disadvantages?

	Persons in lead- ing posi- tions, intellec- tuals	Other white collar workers, office workers	Skilled workers, produc- tion managers	Unskilled workers and helpers	Total
Only advantages	52%	53%	55%	59%	54%
Advantages and disadvantages	42%	41%	35%	22%	37%
Only disadvantages	6%	1%	8%	16%	6%
Do not know	-	5%	2%	3%	3%

We formulated the questions regarding concrete advantages and disadvantages in such a way that respondents were able to answer on their own, spontaneously. The most frequently mentioned advantages were: faster work, better quality, elimination of shortages in products and capacities, as well as improved selection and supply of goods. In the area of detriments and disadvantages most people quoted higher prices, abuses (cheating the customer, unjustified billing, etc.) as well as social tensions created by small enterprises. They trace the tensions mainly to an increase in earnings level differences and/or to the fact that not everybody without distinction has a chance to participate in a "gmk scheme." (Viz. Figure below for more detail)

Small enterprise and income are, of course, concepts that generate a wider circle of associations. When we asked: "What do you think of first when you hear the word 'small enterprise,'" 40 percent of respondents in one way or another touched upon the participants' income. Within this group 11 percent of the people asked equated small enterprise directly with "much money," "larger income" or "tremendous profit."

Advantages and Disadvantages of Small Enterprises



Key:

1. Disadvantages
2. Advantages
3. More polite service
4. Exact, reliable work
5. They overstrain themselves
6. They will tackle what big enterprises refuse to
7. It works to the detriment of straight time labor
8. Wider selection, better supply of goods
9. They cause tensions
10. Making up for shortages and inadequate capacities
11. They are guilty of abuses
12. Better quality workmanship
13. They want more money for their work, they inflate prices
14. They work faster

We asked people's opinions regarding an intentionally extreme statement. Some 11 percent agreed that "most of the small enterprises reap their profits by immoral means." (The proportion of denial was 82 percent and 7 percent had no opinion.)

Even before that, the question was asked: "Do you consider it right or wrong that members of small enterprises earn more money than others?" Sixty-nine percent of the answers was in the affirmative, 13 percent negative. We had better than an average number of affirmative answers from those who believe that they earn more money than their colleagues in similar occupations or in identical jobs. On the other hand, most of those earning less money than others, found fault with the higher income of small enterprise participants. (The two proportions were 76 percent and 23 percent, respectively.) And let us add that those working in the state sector found fault to an above average extent, while those working in the cooperative and private sector found fault to a below average extent with the said higher income levels (16 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

Another thing worth mentioning was that in response to the question: "Do you or do you not approve of the higher income?," an unusually high proportion of 18 percent gave replies refusing to accept the alternatives offered. Some of them were of the opinion "If they work hard for it, they deserve it, if not, then it is unjustified." Some others used this occasion to express opinions like "It isn't their higher income I disapprove of; what I resent is that I cannot earn the same amount in my 8 hours."

In general, a 10 percent to 15 percent group is clearly discernible who are definitely irritated by the higher incomes of small enterprises. But the underlying causes of such opinions are the personal financial problems of those expressing them. The strongest emotional type resentment toward small enterprises (presumably) peaked not in accordance with social strata, but rather according to income levels.

It is a well known fact that there are other types of disapproval as well. In response to the aforementioned question, "What comes to mind first..." only 1.5 percent of those questioned mentioned spontaneously that small enterprises "Don't belong into socialism," or "They hurt our society." On the other hand, when we asked for opinions about the statement quoted below, 70 percent of responses was affirmative, 23 percent negative and 7 percent was unable to decide.

"Small enterprises do not change anything in our endeavor to build a socialist society in Hungary." The proportion of affirmative responses differed mostly according to educational background. Some 59 percent of those with no more than primary school education agreed with the statement, while 77 percent of both high school graduates and college graduates approved it. The proportion of those disagreeing was below average among white collar workers (17 percent) and above average among blue collar workers (35 percent). Approval or disapproval, in this instance, proved to be completely independent of the respondent's evaluation of his personal income situation.

Toward small enterprises, therefore, there undoubtedly exist well defined objections and disapprovals of different types. Their frequency cannot be considered negligible. There is a group of about 6 percent who have no opinion at all about small enterprises, nor the faintest idea of what they are. An absolute majority of metropolitan residents between the ages of 18 and 50, about 54 percent to 61 percent of them, consider small enterprises "a good thing."

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HUNGARY

TOURISM RECOVERS AFTER MAY SLUMP

Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 28 Jul 86 p 3

[MIT Report: "Nearly 5 Million Foreigners Visited Our Country--Computers Aid the Border Guards"]

[Text] (MTI) [Hungarian Telegraph Agency] The traffic across our country's borders increased significantly, by 9.4 percent, in the first half of this year: compared to 13.9 million to the end of June last year, this year over 15.3 million domestic and foreign travellers crossed our borders. So far about 4.5 million foreign tourists visited our country or travelled through it. Of this, 3 million came from the socialist and 1.5 million from the capitalist countries.

The traffic's growth stalled somewhat in the second half of May and in the first weeks of June, but continuous growth is seen again since the middle of last month. This year so far about 922,000 people visited Hungary from Austria and 694,000 from Yugoslavia. It is pleasing to see an increased number of visitors from France, the Netherlands and Denmark. At the same time it is an unfavorable phenomenon that fewer people chose Hungary as their destination from the FRG and from overseas countries. The number of arrivals from the FRG decreased by 6.1 percent, and about half of the groups expected from the U.S. cancelled their trips.

In the training of border guards, increasing attention is paid to adequate knowledge of foreign languages. Currently about 40 percent of the professional border guards who come into contact with the foreign visitors speak a foreign language on at least an elementary level.

In Hegyeshalom, Sopron and Kophaza there are also computers now aiding the border guards in their work. In the coming years--in accordance with a program begun in 1984--computers will be put into service at more border crossings.

In Rajka the new crossing point will be kept open near the old one until September for Czechoslovak, East German and Hungarian citizens. Truck traffic has been redirected from Komarom to the new border crossing in Vamosszabad.

About 50-55 percent of the international North-South passenger and vehicle traffic is handled at the Southern gates of the country at the Szeged, Tompa, Kelebia and Hercegszanto border crossing stations. The Tompa border crossing station built in 1978 is taking on an increasing role during the Summer peak traffic.

The weekend was a busy one on the shores of Lake Balaton. Guests were continuously arriving as early as Friday mainly from the FRG, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and the GDR. The weekend significantly improved the lake's foreign tourist statistics for the year.

On Saturday due mainly to the cooler weather, tourist traffic was brisk. Tourboat trips on Lake Balaton were at their peak for the year. Over 37,000 passengers took trips by boat and 27,500 by ferry, while on Sunday the volume on each was around 20,000.

On Sunday, the beaches "reclaimed" some of the tourists from the docks. It was possible to swim and sunbathe again.

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CSO: 2500/446

ECONOMY

HUNGARY

PROBLEMS OF WORK EFFICIENCY, ORGANIZATION, SAFETY REPORTED

Lack of Work Discipline

Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Jul 86 p 3

[Article by Karoly Ban]

[Text] Careful readers of the news will have noticed the fact that newspapers have, in the past few weeks, been reporting more frequently and more extensively than usual about work discipline, the proper use of working hours or, more accurately, their anomalies. In our present situation the leaders of the economy, too, are motivated to take action, since discipline and order--as we wrote in the introduction to our recently launched series on the subject--in the Hungarian economy are no longer simply moral or economic issues, but represent a problem of survival.

Yes, survival, because the diminished national output is unable to straighten out the foreign trade balance, to accelerate our economy's middle-term program and, in the final analysis, to accomplish a realization of the country's and its citizens' aims. In view of statistics, it is becoming increasingly obvious that there is more correlation than we would have believed possible between the low national output on the one hand and loose work discipline and often inadequate exploitation of work time on the other. Statistical data from last year and from the first half of this year prove conclusively that there is a discrepancy between goals announced and goals reached, and that in a considerable proportion of our producing enterprises, offices and service enterprises we did not succeed in elevating straight time work to the rank it deserves.

Precedence must be given to accomplish economic tasks, which can only be accomplished in stright time--according to last year's congressional resolution--and even if this goal cannot be reached immediately, we must persist in pursuing this end. More than 1 year has elapsed since that resolution and all we see is that a goodly proportion of producing enterprises preferred to take steps to bolster small enterprises rather than to restore straight time work to its proper rank. In VGMK's [enterprise workers' business partnerships] the output is 30 to 50 percent higher than in straight time. It was easily discernible that a considerable proportion of the enterprises is engaged in dilatory tactics and deviates from the "straight and narrow" more frequently than would seem justifiable.

Another indication of this "deviation" is the fact that in many enterprises they overlook the mixing of straight time work and VGMK work. The worker performed his job up to norm fulfillment in regular straight time--let us say he accomplished this in 6 hours--then, in the time remaining, he figuratively speaking "changed hats" and continued in the guise of a VGMK member--for more money. Elsewhere--as we reported in our series--they sent entire groups of people on unpaid vacations, so that the "furloughed" could then, on a small enterprise basis, perform the same jobs which they should have taken care of in straight time. The former is an expense item, i.e., chargeable to cost of goods; the latter--that is, had they done the work in straight time--are wages, which is taxable income. The only fancier, and more difficult to expose, case is when the output juggling begins in straight time, during which they keep production low, only to have room in overtime for higher achievements--for more money. I am convinced, of course, that all this does not mean that VGMK's should be damned, but rather than straight time production should be brought up to par. Impending regulations are meant to accomplish this or, more accurately, are designed to establish the economic and legal framework for the protection of straight time work.

It would, of course, be a mistake to assume that discipline can be simply legislated. It is a little naive to suppose that legal means will suffice to put a stop to the loss of 8 paid work weeks with zero industrial production. It would obviously be equally silly to assume that the elimination of idling and lack of raw materials--which account for a loss of 16 working days per year--can be mandated. Any laws and legal strictures aimed at the defense of working time can provide but a framework for the improvement of labor discipline but alone and in view of general disinterest, can hardly achieve lasting results.

Nevertheless, the government finds it necessary and even imperative to put a stop to this vanishing of working time which, at present, is quite considerable. More than one third of the total working time base evaporates in the peoples' economy which, in practice, is tantamount in this country to a complete standstill of eighty eight days. As though one million of the five million persons of our work force were standing or sitting at their jobs twiddling their thumbs.

Most working days are lost as a result of fractional days, caused either by the worker or by the employer. But it is urgent to give serious thought to the fact that there are so many more lost days attributable to the employer (who frequently complains about the workers' discipline) than to the employee. Which means that there is something basically wrong with work organization and with working conditions. As the saying goes, if you have a worker, you have no pail; if you have a pail, you have no worker. It is no exaggeration to say that the fact that small enterprises have more work than they can handle is due to a greater extent to the foregoing than to a lack of straight time capacity.

Another matter: according to estimates, at present, an enterprise does not have full control over 15 percent of its workers, i.e., of 100 employees, 15 may be claimed by outside entities for a variety of reasons. The worker may, of course, not be blamed if, let us say, he or she is a people's inspector and must, therefore be occasionally excused from his or her job during working hours. In this connection one could only question the proportion: is 15 percent too high or is it not?

One other thing. We are a country that lives from 0800 in the morning to 1700 in the afternoon. That is the reason why legal regulations designed for the protection of working time have lived up to expectations but to a limited extent. During extended office hours--the offices complain--the citizen doesn't show up; and the worker frets that even then they wouldn't take care of his business anyway. That is why the running of "private errands" during the day has become the unwritten law and is, by now, practically sanctioned by society.

There are many other manifestations of the vanishing working time and, unfortunately, they all add up. The moral of the story--we hope--will prompt everybody, and not only the "higher ups," to think, cogitate and, most of all, act....

High Shoddy Production Rate

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 29 Jul 86 p 3

[Report by Hungarian Telegraph Agency]

[Text] Trade inspectors and Quality Control Institute of Trade experts have conducted a joint probe of the furniture distribution situation in more than 200 stores, home furnishing department stores and trade show rooms located in the capital city and 9 counties. At the same time they checked warranted repair procedures in 13 repair shops of the service system. The inspectors concentrated their efforts on the quality of the furniture offered for sale to the public. They found that there are still many deficiencies, though due mostly to shoddy workmanship rather than, as was the case in the past, to shortcomings in warehousing and transportation.

The inspectors found deficiencies in more than one half of the furniture checked. Some 90 to 95 percent of customer complaints were justified. According to the investigators' report, in order to prevent too much defective furniture from reaching the stores, it would be necessary to make quality control more stringent at the level of retail store receiving. This problem is presently unresolved, since there are not enough people in the retail store system to check every piece of furniture upon receiving. It is hoped that a solution will be forthcoming when the recently established Furniture Industry Quality Control and Quality Improvement Trade Association assumes the quality control duties and responsibilities in the trade.

According to the recently compiled details of the investigations, the most conspicuous manufacturing defects were: poor finishing of the outer surfaces, inaccurate joining of panels, shoddy varnishing of inner surfaces, color differences on outside component parts and inadequate fastening of back panels. In upholstered furniture most of the shortcomings stemmed from faults in frame work construction.

The value of defective furniture came to nearly 7.5 million forints; of this, 3.5 million forints worth was declared second quality and was not permitted to be sold except at cut prices. The price differential exceeded 500,000 forints.

Because of a lack of quality warranties and nonexistent or inadequate owner's manuals, close to 15 million forints worth of furniture was temporarily withheld from distribution pending replacement of necessary components and/or modification of their contents.

The investigators concluded that the number of makers offering warranted repair services has, in the past few years, increased considerably. Several manufacturers have instituted their own brand service. Even though some improvement is noticeable, in general one still must wait a long time for warranted repairs. Work is mostly delayed by a lack of components and parts as well as by problems involving incorrectly filled out warranty forms.

For the irregularities uncovered the inspectors imposed fines on distributors and repair services in 57 separate instances, denounced one violation of the laws, instituted 10 enterprise internal procedures and issued warnings to 16 culpable workers. The experts participating in the probe consider it important that the results of the furniture trade investigation become widely known and that the Ministry of Domestic Trade issue proper guidelines for the elimination of deficiencies.

Rising Employee Accident Rate

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 25 Jul 86 p 7

[Article by Sandor Faggyas]

[Excerpts] Last week's tragic railroad accident has once again focused public attention on the Hungarian State Railways' problems regarding the protection and safety of their workers. As we had reported, on 18 July, the express train, Favorit, ran over and killed four rail maintenance workers on the stretch between Alsoors and Paloznak.

According to the Hungarian State Railways' general management, the accident was caused by grave human error and flagrant disregard of safety regulations.

But the sad affair can also make us stop and think, because of late there has been a considerable increase in the number of fatalities resulting from human error, negligence or breach of discipline--in most areas of the peoples' economy, including the railroads. If we consider the so-called industrial accidents occurring in the sphere of the railroads alone (not highway accidents), then the first half year's data are really alarming. In the first six months of 1985 three railroad workers lost their lives in job-related accidents, but in the first half of 1986, 11 workers got killed, for an increase of nearly 400 percent. The number of accidents involving dismemberment, in the same period of time, increased from seven to seventeen--to more than double. The

majority of fatal and crippling industrial accidents occurred while on traffic-related duties (marshaling yard worker, railroad car inspector, rail maintenance worker, motorman).

The labor safety experts of the Railroad Workers' Union claim that the majority of fatal accidents is not the result of faulty engineering, but may be traced directly to human error, gross-sometimes criminal--disregard of safety rules and regulations and to a lack of labor and technological discipline. According to the Union, inadequate organization and poor discipline cannot be explained by labor force problems, even if such problems do exist and call for extra effort and sacrifice on the part of everybody working on the railroads--be he manager, supervisor or laborer.

In their endeavor to achieve more effective accident protection, union management considers it of paramount importance that the local chapters devote more attention than ever before to labor safety. More emphasis must be put on training and educating the workers to learn and adopt proper safety precautions and to live by them. Such changes in the workers' attitude, strengthening of their sense of responsibility and strict adherence to rules and regulations can primarily be achieved by setting good examples, improving safety training and stepping up the dissemination of information and propaganda, but--if all else fails--they must be enforced by making control and accountability more stringent. It is necessary to meet the supervisors' lenient and compromising attitude with the same intransigence as the workers' lack of discipline, irresponsibility and premeditated rule violations. We can stop a worsening of the accident situation and prevent further tragedies only if everybody realizes and dutifully performs his or her assigned tasks; if both management and workers learn the meaning of responsibility and respect for themselves and for their co-workers.

Vacations Exacerbate Shorthandedness

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 30 Jun 86 p 3

[Article by Gabor Szathmari]

[Excerpts] One-half of the country vacations in July and August. Summer's pleasures entice most people to take their entire year's vacation days in these 2 months. Others cannot help doing so because in school vacation time they have no one to leave the children with; because nursery school and kindergarten are closed; because it is only for this period that they are able to obtain family placement in a spa; because a helping hand is needed to build the family dwelling; because.... But who can enumerate all the "cogent" reasons a person must take his vacation at the exact time when most people are away from the work bench or from their desks.

These 2 months are full of soul searching for workplace bosses too: whom to let take his vacation during the height of the season and whom to tell he must stay, he is needed. Because work must go on in July and August too.

Offices cannot close, factories cannot shut down. The majority of production facilities, to say the least, cannot take a production hiatus. Only a worker can take vacation, not a factory or an enterprise or an office. Their production and services are needed even in the hottest of summer days.

This year it is particularly important--practically vital--that work continue everywhere in good order and uninterruptedly even during vacation season, because the first half year's results did not turn out the way we had anticipated. Meetings of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party's Central Committee held a week and a half ago, and of the National Assembly held just the other day, both focused attention on weaknesses in our production so far this year; on the fact that after last year's meager results, our economy did not, in the first 5 months of this year, attain the planned and expected levels either. Last year's unfavorable trends have continued into the current year.

That is the reason why--considering the negative aspects of our situation and calling for action--Jozsef Marjai, Deputy Prime Minister, in his speech in Parliament discussing vacations, made special reference to the fact that organs of the economy cannot lie idle even in summer time. "For organs of the economy there are no vacations in summer, in the same way as there are none between Christmas and Epiphany. Because of urgently compelling circumstances, the second half of this year must not be a season of relaxation, spectacles or world championships for us, but a time for tough, consistent and organized daily work at all levels which, to be sure, we must all highly value and respect," said the government's second in command with characteristic emphasis.

But is there real respect in all work places for persons who understand that despite the most sweltering summer heat not everybody can be on vacation, who are willing to hold the fort even for those who are absent, who are willing to make the sacrifice of taking early or late vacations? And is there, for once, enough decisiveness in the bosses to grant vacations during this year's critical summer in such a way that they are really better planned and coordinated and more in tune with the needs of production? And is there, on the other hand, sufficient decency everywhere to make sure that time off is definitely given those who have to take their vacations because of family circumstances or other cogent reasons?

Lagging Machinery Maintenance

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 31 Jul 86 p 4

[Article by Sarolta Osvath]

[Excerpts] "A task equal in importance to development is the rational use of available fixed assets, their modernization for better profitability, efficiency and utility." (Resolution proposal for 7th 5-Year Plan.)

In the 7th 5-Year Plan period stepped-up goals are foreseen for the light industry. The people's economy expects greater output and more good quality products for both domestic consumption and exports. The industry, however, is

quite poor and has hardly enough developmental resources to accomplish such tasks. According to people's economy budgets, it can count on investments totaling 30 billion forints. Its investment possibilities in previous planning periods had not come up to the industrial average either, not even during the light industry reconstruction period of 1970-1980. And in the 6th 5-Year Plan period, compared to the previous period, investments in engineering and technological renewal decreased considerably from 33 billion forints to 27.5 billion forints. In some cases the ratio of zero depreciated machinery exceeds 20%. We are constantly falling further behind the leaders in the international arena.

Under such circumstances--one would think--more attention should be devoted to preserving the existing tools of production, more money and energy should be spent on their maintenance and rebuilding. Do enterprises do so, or are they in a position to do so? Is preventive maintenance work appreciated, what are the conditions and circumstances, what are the problems in this sector existing in every enterprise, though not directly production-related? That is the subject of our upcoming serial.

Zoltan Jakab, chief exponent of the Ministry of Industry, stated that technological levels of light industry's machinery are, in essence, determined by the reconstruction undertaken between 1978 and 1980. The ratio of machines completely written off is constantly growing. The rate of their technological obsolescence has been increasing over the last few years. At a time of tight investment possibilities, we should really concentrate on preserving the substance of our machinery or, at least, on preventing a continued deterioration of existing conditions. The fact of the matter, however, is different; what we observed seems to indicate that enterprise management--since a profit increase is their paramount goal--continuously procrastinate, since growing maintenance costs tend to whittle away profits. Such expenses are limited by the enterprises to a certain percentage of anticipated profits, and if there is the slightest sign of a falling short of forecast, maintenance is the very first item they will cut. The other problem they face is that, in general, they must spend more and more for maintenance because there is also a steady increase in the price of materials, parts and other cost items, as well as wages.

According to an earlier study, machinery maintenance in the light industry increased by 16.7 percent between 1980 and 1984. But this was not enough to accomplish as much work in 1984 as in 1981.

It is obvious that growing costs, too, play a role in the gradual deterioration of machinery. But that is not the only reason. Labor is becoming scarce also: there are fewer and fewer skilled workers available. Few young persons entering the job market choose to enlist for light industry. The reason is that wages are 30 to 40 percent lower than in the machine industry, and another cause of discontent is that the wages of those who work in direct production--e.g., weavers and spinners in the textile industry--have increased at a greater rate than those of maintenance workers. Machine building enterprises, cooperatives and producer cooperative ancillary shops exert a strong pull on available manpower.

Adequate spare parts supply is one of the cornerstones of the maintenance and rebuilding of machinery. Using the lack of spare parts as an excuse, many enterprises do not even bother to provide, even in their medium range planning, for systematic preventive maintenance.

This is just one of the reasons. In many light industrial enterprises, at certain phases of production, capacities are extremely limited. Of the machines of crucial importance there is only one; this happens e.g., in the textile finishing enterprises or in the printing industry. Such machines get special handling and are on systematic major maintenance schedules. At the same time, machines of lesser importance are repaired only when unexpected malfunctions occur; any urgent export contract or order would play havoc with production planning, anyway. It is also a fact that there are very few plants where they know the exact condition of their machinery and which machine should, from an engineering point of view, be rebuilt and when. There are hardly any diagnostic instruments around and proper methods are still lacking. Thus what most of the maintenance amounts to is the correction rather than the prevention of trouble.

There is no doubt that the situation must be remedied. But how?

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

ALUMINUM EXPORTS EXCEED PLAN; SHIPMENT TO SOVIETS GROWS

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 31 Jul 86 p 4

[MTI Report: "More Alumina Being Sent Abroad from Almasfuzito"--Most of it Exported to the Soviet Union]

[Text] Since the beginning of this year, 161,000 tons of alumina--3,000 tons more than planned--was shipped from the Almasfuzito Alumina Factory for smelting to foreign purchasers. Half of this went to the Soviet Union. Fulfillment of the export obligation called for great efforts, because in the first months of the year, the rate of shipping slowed down due to a shortage of railroad cars. But since March, empty trains have been arriving and thus the time-proportional export plan was overfulfilled.

The Almasfuzito Alumina Factory's workers will have to provide more than their usual output in the second half of the year, if they are to meet their export obligation for the year. This is so since according to the recently expanded Hungarian-Soviet alumina-aluminum agreement, extended until 1990, much more alumina than before will be exported from Hungarian plants to the Soviet Union. The Almasfuzito factory will furnish a significant portion of the increase. It is typical of the increased responsibilities that many more railroad trains than last year will be sent to Soviet smelters. Here the Hungarian alumina will be processed with the aid of relatively inexpensive hydroelectric energy and aluminum ingots will be shipped back.

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ECONOMY

HUNGARY

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN-SOVIET VEHICLE AGREEMENT—A Hungarian-Soviet vehicle industry cooperation agreement was signed at the headquarters of the Mogurt Foreign Trade Enterprise on 19 September. The agreement was signed by the heads of the Mogurt, Autoker, Ikarus, and Soviet Autoexport enterprises. According to the agreement, the exchange of vehicle industry goods between the two countries will amount to R936 million next year. Hungary will export Ikarus buses, caravans, and bus spare parts. The Soviet Union will export private cars, minibuses, and spare parts to Hungary. The USSR will export 28,000 private cars in 1987, 27,000 Lada cars and the rest Volga and UAZ cars. Mogurt will purchase 500 units of the newest front-wheel drive Lada Samara models. [Text] [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 20 Sep 86 p 4 AU] /8309

TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSIONS WITH USSR—Budapest, September 12 (MTI)—Hungarian-Soviet electrotechnical talks were held in Budapest from September 9th to 12th. An agenda was signed Friday by the heads of the two delegations, Sandor Bogner, deputy minister of industry and Nikolay Pronyin, Soviet deputy minister of the electrotechnical industry, on conclusion of the talks Friday. At the negotiations they coordinated the conditions for founding joint ventures and designing bureaus in the area of heavy current electricity. They resolved upon the concrete tasks of the organizations cooperating, and on the phase plan for preparing to found joint ventures. Correspondingly, it is expected that this year the Tungsram Co. Ltd and the Pest Region Machine Factory will conclude contracts with partner companies in the Soviet Union on the establishment of joint ventures. [Text] [Budapest MTI in English 1917 GMT 12 Sep 86 LD] /8309

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MILITARY

HUNGARY

SOLDIERS USED WIDELY FOR AGRICULTURAL, CONSTRUCTION WORK

Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 24 Jul 86 p 5

[Article by Major General Tibor Toth: "Defense and Construction"]

[Text] During the more than four decades since liberation, the Hungarian People's Army--in addition to carrying out its tasks related to the defense of our country--has consistently done its part to help out in productive work.

At the beginning of the 1960's, the solution of the economic problems of socialist development imposed new demands on the Hungarian People's Army as well. It became a realistic requirement that individual units of the army take a direct share in solving the problems of the national economy. This was the reason for the organization, beginning in 1964, of the construction engineer units, whose training and work served at the same time to carry out construction tasks of the national economy.

The legal foundation of this previously developed practice was comprehensively determined in the 1976 law on national defense. According to that law, a task as important as those of defending the territory, the independence, the socialist-state, economic, and social order and the peace of the Hungarian People's Republic, guarding the state frontier, fulfilling the military obligations of the Hungarian People's Army under international treaties, and defending state security and public safety is the task of providing assistance in the event of natural disasters and other public dangers, collaborating in the performance of work required by the national economy, and participating in the education of youth. As a result of this, the building and the defense of socialist society form a dialectical unit and are closely related to each other. All these requirements were also confirmed by the congresses of the MSZMP.

They do their part everywhere

The most significant part of the support given to the national economy is the activity of the construction engineer units. The recruits serving in these units have worked and are working in national-economy investment projects, apartment-construction programs, transportation, and communication, tasks selected in accordance with the requirements of practical training.

In recent years they have collaborated in the construction of the Lenin Metallurgical Works and in the construction of the Tisza Chemical Plant, the Paks Atomic Power Station, the Pet Nitrogen Works, and other major industrial facilities.

In Budapest, for example, as a part of the apartment-construction program, our soldiers have taken part on a continuous basis in the building of 11 residential projects and in helping to operate pre-fabricated house factories.

In carrying out the modernization program in transportation and communication, the construction work done by the soldiers of the Hungarian People's Army has made itself felt through their participation in the renovation of the Metro, the Arpad Bridge, the Marx Square overpass, the Krisztina Center, and 1,650 kilometers of railroad track, the replacement of 625 railroad sidings, and the construction of 750 kilometers of roads and superhighways.

By their work during the past decade, construction engineer troops have contributed some 50 billion forints in production value to the growth of the national wealth.

The army also takes a significant part in agricultural work. Under central organization, our soldiers regularly assist agricultural enterprises in harvesting and in the rapid performance of the autumn tasks associated with gathering and transport.

In order to help out with harvesting, some 200 soldiers trained as combine drivers are released from their "ordinary" duties for a certain period every year. When needed, they generally work for one month at 50-60 agricultural enterprises. This enables the farms to organize two working shifts, to make better use of expensive harvesting machinery and to make sure that the grain they grow is gathered in at the proper time, with minimum grain loss.

We are working toward the same goal

Perhaps even more helpful than the summer work is the fact that between September and November of each year 10,000-12,000 soldiers and 800-1,000 transport motor vehicles participate in the autumn gathering and transport work at state farms and agricultural cooperatives. After all, we are working toward the same goal, and, understanding this, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food are working well together in harmony with the county councils, the farms that expect help from soldiers, and military units in organizing and carrying out the soldiers' participation in agricultural gathering work.

Our experience has been that the soldiers go gladly to do their work on the farm and that they do it with great diligence, in a well-organized and efficient manner. Their achievements measure up to the performance of those who do this as their regular work.

Soldiers have also participated in carrying out the Lake Balaton environmental-protection program. They have done a significant amount of engineering work in restoring the biological role of the Little Balaton.

Recently our soldiers struggled shoulder to shoulder with the civilian population at the dikes at the time of the memorable Szolnok-Tiszadob flood. As a part of clearing up the effects of the extraordinary winter weather, they have repeatedly assisted in removing snow and ice from the Budapest railroad stations, making it possible to maintain traffic without interruption and ensure that trains left on schedule.

When an earthquake struck the Berhida-Peremarton district, the army helped the victims by providing tents and other equipment.

In February of this year, when transport and supply difficulties resulting from the extraordinarily severe snowstorm devastating the western part of the country had to be solved, our soldiers worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and the local councils.

One of the most recent examples is this year's fire which caused extensive damage at Heviz, where the Hungarian People's Army provided significant assistance in rapidly clearing up the effects of the fire, helping to make it possible for the Heviz lake baths, famous throughout Europe, to receive guests by the start of the foreign-tourist season. The army supplied equipment to get the work finished on time, including some equipment that is not available to civilian enterprises.

Work is a part of education

In addition to all this, our soldiers are also undertaking a significant share of military construction work in order to see to it that the living and working conditions of line soldiers are constantly improved. By the work they do at military bases, they relieve the country's construction-industry capacity of a part of its burden, thus helping to carry out major state investment programs, other construction assignments, and the apartment-construction program.

Beyond the performance of tasks in the national economy, the Hungarian People's Army is contributing significant forces and equipment to arrangements for the education of young people in patriotism and national defense, for which it provides organizers and technological necessities. The army regularly helps with the preparation and staging of the most important national and world-scale competitions, such as the international four-horse team driving world championship, the Kiskunsag horsemen's and herdsmen's days, and the Hungarian military equestrian championship. It extends assistance to the programs staged by political and social organizations, at their request--for example, to the preparation and holding of the Constitution Day celebration at the Opusztaszer National Historic Memorial Park, the Pusztavacs peace festival, the world camping encounter, and many other programs.

Participation in work on the national economy has not only brought direct benefit to the national economy, and thus to society as a whole, but also contributed to the education of military recruits. For some of them this is their first introduction to productive work, and they can practice, intensify, and even add to the occupational skills they have learned in civilian life. In addition to performing its tasks in construction work, the Hungarian People's Army has done and is doing a great deal to train recruits who have had little schooling. During the past 10 years we have taught 10,000-11,000 young men, of whom 9,000 completed some grade of elementary school, including 3,000 who completed the eighth grade.

The work done in the national economy helps the recruits to understand the meaning of the slogan, "I defend and I build," and the need for armed service to their country.

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MILITARY

HUNGARY

MECHANIZED LOADING OF AMMUNITION TRUCKS DEVELOPED

Budapest NEPHADSEREG in Hungarian 2 Aug 86 p 3

[Article by Rudolf Soltesz]

[Text] There are technical problems which seem simple but whose solution nevertheless takes years to find. One concern of this kind is the mechanized loading of ammunition cases. Specialists in one army formation have been working on this problem for almost 10 years. Success was finally achieved by the four-member innovative team in 1984. That was when the specialists of the armaments technology service worked out the new method they recommend.

The new idea: a conveyor belt

"In the life of military units the supply of ammunition requires a great deal of work. The reason," explained Col Mondok, "is that ammunition represents a significant percentage of the material that has to be transported. That is why we recommend using the conveyor-belt method. This procedure can become useful not only at the formation level but in the People's Army in general. The essence of the innovation is actually a woven plastic sling produced by Hungarian industry. Its great advantage is that stackable items can be expediently lifted and transferred by means of--that is to say, in--such a sling."

During the development of this innovation, however, there arose a number of questions that are crucial to success. For example, in earlier years fork lifts were used for loading the material onto trucks. But such loading could be done only to or from the rear of the trucks. By means of conveyor belts, it is possible to approach the truck from any direction. After a brief period of "searching," the innovators found the appropriate crane, which is also a Hungarian product and can be mounted on its own truck. The only task that seemed to be left was converting some of the available technical equipment to suit this purpose. A further advantage is that no additional operating personnel is needed. On the other hand, the method requires a special lifting fork which was not manufactured in earlier years for the basic machine and without which it is impossible to lift the load...

After all this, the loading equipment was ready for testing. Now the new task was to determine which method is the most economical--how could the

maximum amount he loaded?... By using the conveyor-belt procedure, the planning group raised the efficiency of utilization of the permissible loading weight from 60-70 percent to more than 90 percent. Another part of the innovators' total success is the design of a new method for typing down the load in order to prevent it from tipping over. Thus, the cases are piled on top of one another to form a unified block load and can be loaded as easily as a shipping container.

Supplementary recommendations

The innovation was supplemented by further new and noteworthy recommendations. In the case of railroad transport, for example, a so-called short hook mechanism can be used to unload the ammunition with equal ease from the freight cars--and, what is more, to do it faster. The innovators also concerned themselves with warehouse loading. Here too, however, there were some difficulties. Some of the warehouses are old buildings, with small doors and cramped interior spaces. The problem of loading in front of the warehouse is solved by the use of lifting conveyors, together with the supplementary machinery. But it is still necessary to use the old method in order to bring the ammunition from these warehouses to the area in front of the building, and in fact to use sheer muscle power in most cases. On the other hand, in the case of modern buildings a loading machine that is easy to move and turn can greatly facilitate and speed the process. The machine for the purpose was also found in the range of equipment offered by the manufacturing firm.

Demonstration and troop testing

After the demonstration of the new loading method, Col Mondok also spoke of the general advantages it affords. First of all, the larger the amount of capacity supplanted by the new machine, the fewer cranes will be needed for loading, so that the innovation does not require any investment cost. It is important to note that the hourly amount of loading has also been increased through the use of this complex. Previously, loading ammunition cases required several soldiers, but now the work is done by a single truck driver --who is also the machine operator--and one binder. No wonder that this increases efficiency, and in the case of freight-car and open-space loading doubles it...

Despite all this, the old pallet method has not been abandoned either--at least not until the troop testing of the conveyor-belt solution has been completed. The procedure is at this moment being subjected to testing in practical life by military units. We hope that the tests will be successful, to the delight of a great many soldiers.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

HOXHA ON IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

AU062044 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 2 Sep 86 p 2

[Leka Shkurti article: "Let Us Be Irreconcilable and Always Active Against Alien Manifestations--Studying the 50th Volume of Comrade Enver Hoxha's Works"]

[Excerpts] Many of the materials in the 50th volume of Comrade Enver Hoxha's works tackle a number of problems pertaining to the party's ideological work and struggle. It is the beginning of 1973, when the party had to engage itself and carry out a great struggle of particular importance on the ideological front. Under the influence of Fadil Pacrami's and Todi Lubonja's inimical activity, mistaken and dangerous tendencies began to appear in various sectors such as culture, literature, the arts, radio and television, and the youth, which assumed the traits of a political position contrary to the party's line and ideology.

Later events proved absolutely that the anti-party activity in the field of culture and ideology was a component part of that great conspiracy, prepared by the internal enemies in cooperation with the external ones against socialist Albania, to liquidate the party, overthrow the people's power, and establish a political, economic, and social system according to foreign models and which resembled not at all a genuine socialist society.

Comrade Enver Hoxha's speeches in the higher party and state forums, and particularly his speech at the general meeting of communists in the Central Committee apparatus--"How to understand and to struggle against the imperialist-revisionist encirclement of our country and the effect of its pressure on us"--uncovered and unmasked the essence of the ideological aggression, of liberal views and tendencies, showed their great danger for the fate of the revolution and socialism, and aroused the party, the youth, the workers class, the intelligentsia, and all working people.

This struggle was of extraordinary importance not only because it defeated the ideological opponents and their reactionary views, but also because it was the first blow against M. Shehu's band and the conspiratorial and sabotaging groups of that period. This struggle aroused the political activity of the party and of the people and gave new impulses to the development of culture, literature, the arts, to the fervor of the youth, and to the entire life of the country.

Like Comrade Enver's entire work, the teachings to be drawn from a study of the materials of this volume pertaining to questions of the party's ideological struggle retain topical value. They are topical because our country's imperialist-revisionist encirclement remains and continues to exert great pressure on our people. As Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses, this pressure "is neither imaginary nor hypothetical, but real and concrete." This pressure has become more active and aggressive in our days. It is incorporated in the global strategy of imperialism and revisionism under the conditions of current international developments, has assumed a new intensity, and is sometimes overt and at other times covert.

The party and the people have clearly determined their road and are progressing resolutely along this road, vacillating before no pressure and blackmail and being enticed by no kind of sugar-coated offers. Expressing the will of the party and of the people in numerous speeches, Comrade Ramiz Alia has given clear and firm answers to the attempts of the enemies and has stressed that the policy of our party and of our state will not deviate one inch from its foundations and that the party and the Albanian people will progress solely on the road traced by our glorious leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The topicality of these teachings lies also in the fact that vestiges of the old ideologies still exist (which are particularly stressed by Comrade Enver), these being of a patriarchal, conservative, petit bourgeois, liberal, religious, and other nature, and are also in operation and exert an influence on our people. Under given conditions they can be revived, developed, and assume new traits; they can be transmitted; and they can be escalated in various forms. The pressure of these vestiges is no less dangerous than the pressure from outside. They exist in the mentality of various people and manifest themselves at work and in life, with all their nefarious consequences.

These two kinds of pressure are interwoven with each other, they nurture and keep each other alive, thus creating one single hostile front operating against our Marxist-Leninist ideology, against our socialist system. Although the situation at present is not that of 12-13 years ago, the party is waging a broad struggle on the ideological and cultural front against these influences and all other vestiges of alien ideologies.

The ideological purity of our culture, literature, and art of socialist realism is a result of the all-round effort of the party and is also a testimony that our writers and artists are inspired by the party's line, by the struggle of the people, by the development of our society, and by its prospects. Our literature and arts constitute a spiritual nourishment for the masses and a great inspiration to them at work and in the struggle to build socialism. But the party demands more in these fields, aiming at a higher level. Complacency with the levels attained, with average standards, and, what is even worse, with mediocre achievements, which are present in some works of literature, music, paintings, playwriting, cinematography, television broadcasts, and publications, are a serious obstacle in the further development of our culture, of our literature and art of socialist realism, and a more determined effort is therefore necessary against them. These demands are as important as the demands not to reconcile ourselves with conceptual limitations or distorted reflections of the socialist reality which have appeared in some cases.

Comrade Enver Hoxha deals with particular affection and care with our youth and its problems. He assesses very highly the great role of youth in the country's overall development, in the struggle waged by the people under the party's leadership in building socialism and in defending the country, and he gives much advice to the party, the party organs and basic organizations, the youth organization, and other instruments concerning the great effort they must make in remaining close to the youth, guiding, helping, and encouraging it in its revolutionary activity.

However, as a generation that is still being shaped, it is impossible to rule out the possibility that certain manifestations may make their appearance among the youth, which are reflections of the influence exerted by the outside pressure, or the vestiges of alien ideologies within the country itself, and of shortcomings in the education of the youth itself. Certain vacillations are therefore observed among young people in actions that are related to duties and rights, civic education, public behavior, attitudes toward work and property, and so forth. There are young men and women who are inclined to take the easy road at work and in life, the road requiring the least effort. This does not help in strengthening character. On the contrary, this destroys character. This confuses the minds and suppresses the great creative forces of the youth and, as such, is incompatible with the spirit and requirements of the time and of the youth itself.

The party has therefore constantly directed that the best education for the youth is that kind of education that takes place within the context of the effort and struggle to build socialism, education through revolutionary actions to fulfill the tasks everywhere and in all fields, the kind of education that is tempered in struggle against backward thinking, routine practices, and the influence and vestiges of alien ideologies. This is why the party demands, as Comrade Ramiz Alia has stressed, that our youth should be educated politically and ideologically, that it should be interested in present-day developments and ideological struggles, economic processes and cultural achievements, and that this interest should never remain a passive and superficial one; on the contrary, it should arise as an inner demand and need of the youth itself to know the present and understand the future.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

STRUGGLE AGAINST VESTIGES OF BOURGEOIS THINKING

AU071542 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 29 Aug 86 pp 3-4

[Professor Vangjel Moisiu, academic secretary of the Institute of Marxist-Leninist Studies, article: "Important Factors in the Process of Ideological Training"]

[Excerpts] Socialism, in abolishing private property and the norms and rights which stem from it, affirms and perfects the ideological and moral values appropriate to the nature of the mission of the working people, the builders of socialist society. But the introduction of socialist social relations can be neither a simple nor an immediate act. This process does not merely involve the necessity of creating an adequate material and technical base, but also requires the confirmation of socialist intellectual values through a struggle against vestiges of the bourgeois world.

However, as our development proceeds, there also exists a range of factors and circumstances which to a degree hamper the process of education. The new socialist society itself, the initial phase of communist society, still preserves remnants, customs, ways of behavior, and concepts of life harking back to the old society from which it emerged, in other words, it is still marked by blemishes inherited from feudal-bourgeois society. Apart from this, one must not forget the conditions of our nation, which started on the path of socialism as an undeveloped, backward country, at an extremely low cultural and economic level. And even if this backwardness is overcome quickly in the material sphere, the influences of the old way of thinking upon intellectual life and upon people's consciousness will still linger for a certain time.

Besides, we must also remember certain other factors, such as the incomplete and inadequate development of the material and cultural base in villages in remote mountain districts, the insufficiency of certain articles and goods of general consumption, the absence of certain particular services from the network of consumer services, old habits of manual labor, etc. Among the subjective factors which to a degree hamper the process of education we may mention instances of bureaucratic routine which distort and damage socialist democracy, cases of the violation of the principle of compensation according to quantity and quality of work, shortcomings in the setting of criteria for norms, and weaknesses in the organization and management of labor and production. Education is a complex process involving the influence and joint operation of a range of economic, political, ideological, juridical, social and organizational factors, etc.

Our revolution, as it proceeds, consolidates socialist ideological and moral qualities in our working people. It has continually done this insistently, with patience and clear-headedness, also preventing all forms of rottenness from infecting our social order. Unworthy, corrupted destructive individuals, thieves, hucksters, dealers in bribes, and parasites, as was stressed at the AWP Central Committee 14th Plenum, must always be subjected to the strong pressure of healthy opinion and communist militancy.

The process of socialist education cannot be completed without successfully confronting bourgeois-revisionist political and ideological aggression. This pressure has been continuous, and has even become more intense. The main aim of bourgeois-revisionist ideological aggression is to deceive people with illusions about the supposed superiority of the capitalist social order and of bourgeois "democracy," to darken and discount our socialist reality, and to revive all forms of old partriarchal, bourgeois, petit bourgeois and religious ideology.

We have conscientiously done great work in successfully confronting all forms of bourgeois-revisionist pressure. All the measures undertaken by the party in this field have aimed at blocking the path of ideological aggression and at protecting our working masses in general, and our intelligentsia and young people in particular, against every decadent influence, to maintain the masses as a constant, healthy, active revolutionary force.

The struggle against bourgeois-revisionist ideological aggression is directly linked with the future of the revolution, with the defense and consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat, with the strengthening and revolutionizing of the party, and with the maintenance of the freedom and independence of our socialist fatherland.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

ALIA SPEAKS TO BERAT DISTRICT WORKERS

AU011009 Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 1 Oct 86

[Text] Tirana, 1 October (ATA)--The first secretary of the Central Committee of the party, Comrade Ramiz Alia, who attended the proceedings of the 24th party conference of Berat District, met with working collectives of this district on 29 September.

At the beginning, he went to the textile combine. The textile workers welcomed warmly and enthusiastically Comrade Ramiz Alia. He was accompanied by the first secretary of the district party committee, Halil Hasko and other comrades. Comrade Ramiz Alia paid visits to different factories of the combine, where he saw the articles that the textile workers are producing, the new patterns they have prepared. In the talks with groups of workers and specialists he instructed them to create new possibilities and open new ways to production in order to provide the people with beautiful textiles.

In the meantime, an enthusiastic meeting was organised in the big square of the combine, where amidst powerful acclamations for the party by thousands of textile workers, Comrade Ramiz Alia took the floor.

Being in Berat for the party conference, he said, I could not but come among you, in this industrial center, among the biggest of the country, where thousands of workers work with the line of the party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha as a compass. During the two decades of its activity, implementing the directives of the party and the state plans, your militant collective has realised a vigorous development. For years now, the production capacities and most advanced technologies are mastered in the field of the textile industry. You have developed wide scale scientific research and experimental activity, thus further expanding productive capabilities.

After speaking of the continuous care the party has shown so that the light and foodstuff industry goes in harmony with heavy industry, and that the production of mass consumer goods in general continues according to the needs of the people and in right proportion with the means of production, Comrade Ramiz Alia stressed that investments too will increase for this sector. New investments to the tune of about 16 million leks will be made in the textile combine in Berat, on the construction of the factory for the production of cotton-polyester thread, the extension of the looms factory and in other directions for the technological needs of production.

In conclusion he underlined: the party congresses have been and will remain the most joyful events for communists and the entire people. A source of enthusiasm and pride are the ever greater achievements in economy and culture, the well-being of the people and defence of the homeland are the the sure magnificent vistas opened. [sentence as received] Such will be the Ninth Congress of the party, a congress of fresh victories but also of great tasks as well.

Comrade Ramiz Alia's speech was interrupted by powerful applause and acclamation for the party and its Ninth Congress.

Still on 29 September, Comrade Ramiz Alia went for a visit to the oil mechanical plant "Hero of Socialist Labour" in Qytet Stalin. Thousands of inhabitants and oilmen received Comrade Ramiz Alia with great love. After meeting and warmly greeting the working people of the plant, Comrade Ramiz Alia visited the mechanical workshops and those of forging and motors, where he learned of the efforts of the workers and specialists to increase further the quality of products. He congratulated them and wished them to have always successes.

Then a meeting was organised with all the working people of the plant. Amidst the great joy and powerful acclamations of those present, Comrade Ramiz Alia took the floor.

When the jubilee anniversaries of great events of our new history approach, as we have this year the 45th anniversary of the founding of the party, Comrade Ramiz Alia said, we recall the first hearth of the workers' and communist movement in Albania, of the pioneers of our proletariat, who today are veterans of the working class and are honoured with love by all. Such a hearth of the Albanian working class, a center of the resistance and creation of its class conscience, a school of tempering whole generations of oilmen has been this town, Kocove so known in history, which bears and honours the name of Stalin, of this outstanding figure of world communism.

The oil mechanical plant, he said among others, is today among the biggest mechanical plants of the country. Over the Seventh 5-Year Plan, the production of your plant was about that of the total industrial production of all the country in 1950. These are merits of the work, creativity and class formation which led to the title of "Hero of Socialist Labour" your plant has been awarded with.

The 9th Congress of the party and the 45th anniversary of its founding are approaching. The party and people look forward to these two great events with realised tasks and full of faith in the realisation of the new objectives we have set to ourselves in the future. The years since the Eighth Congress are one of the periods with numerous complex tasks in the history of our party. In these years, the political maturity of the party and people, the correct Marxist-Leninist line we have followed, the stability of our socialist economy and the colossal, organisational strength of the party, state and social organs have come to the fore magnificently.

The victories scored in the development of the economy and culture, the defence of the country and on the international arena have steeled further the unity

of the people round the party, have increased their enthusiasm and vigor at work, have led to new undertakings for the realisation and overfulfillment of the tasks of the Eighth 5-Year Plan.

Besides, on 29 September, Comrade Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Central Committee of the party and general commander of the armed forces of the PSR of Albania met with aviators in Qytet Stalin. On this visit he was accompanied by the chief of the general staff of the People's Army, Kico Mustaqi, and other comrades.

Comrade Ramiz Alia met with a group of aviators and specialists of aviation who welcomed him with love and great enthusiasm. They informed the general commander of the work they have done to realise the tasks in training and great fighting readiness.

Comrade Ramiz Alia pointed out the special importance that the aviation force has for the defence of the air space of the homeland, he evaluated the difficult, manly and noble duty of the aviators and wished them fresh successes in mastering the technique and perfection in training.

I follow your activity with pleasure, Comrade Ramiz Alia addressed them. I am informed in detail of the initiatives you have undertaken, and not only you but all the effectives of the People's Army, in order to master profoundly the military art and practise it with fantasy and creativity. Like our entire people, the armed forces are making all round preparations to see to the Ninth Congress of the party with fresh successes and greater for towards themselves.
[sentence as received]

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ALBANIA

VOLUME CONTAINING ALIA'S SPEECHES PUBLISHED

AU071314 Tirana ATA in English 0901 GMT 7 Sep 86

[Text] Tirana, 7 September (ATA)--The book by Comrade Ramiz Alia "Speeches and Talks 1985" came off the press and was put into circulation.

The materials contained in this volume, which is published on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the party and its 9th congress, belong the April-December 1985 period. [sentence as received] They express the profound veneration and the great respect for the life and immortal work of our unforgettable leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, they also give valuable orientations for the strengthening of the unity of our people round the party, the strengthening of the work of the party and its leading roles in the entire work of the country. The materials in the volume also deal with many important political, economic, social and cultural problems of our present times.

The main materials include the speeches: "Enver Hoxha and His Work Lives and Will Live Forever," "Enver Hoxha Banner of the Struggle for Freedom and Socialism," "Albania Will March Always Ahead on the Road of Socialism," "The Innovative Movement--Revolutionary Movement of Our Time," the closing speech at the 13th plenum of the CC of the PLA "The Organisation, Management and Control--Vast Reserves for the Growth of Production" etc.

A considerable part of the materials in this book are published for the first time.

The volume has an index.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

CUKO SPEAKS TO OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE

AU251100 Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] Tirana, 25 September (ATA)--The cooperativists and other inhabitants of the zone of Konispol in Sarande District had a great joy yesterday: their cooperative named "Fitorja e Leninizmit" was awarded the lofty title "Hero of Socialist Labour" by the Presidium of the People's Assembly. Higher results are scored there in all indices from year to year. The plan of production of bread grains industrial plants, vegetables, milk, meat, etc., was overfulfilled. While implementing the objectives of the revolutionary movement "Standard Bearers of Implementing the Teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha" this year the cooperativists realised the plan of wheat delivery, they overfulfilled the planned yield in beans by 6 quintals per hectare.

To celebrate this event a rally was organised in Konispol town. Attending it were the member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the party Comrade Lenka Cuko, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the People's Council of the District Stefan Qirjako and others.

Comrade Lenka Cuko greeted those present in the name of the Central Committee of the party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and of the first secretary of the Central Committee of the party Comrade Remiz Alia personally. She stressed among others that the decoration "Hero of Socialist Labour" is a great evaluation made of the work, toil and sweat of the cooperativists who for several years have had only realisations, achievements and successes. They are an expression of the correct line and farsighted policy of our party and the immortal teachings of our unforgettable leader Comrade Enver Hoxha, then after speaking of the care of the party and of the investments made on the all sided harmonious development of agriculture, Comrade Lenka Cuko expressed the conviction that the people of Konispol, in steel unity round the party, its Central Committee with Comrade Ramiz Alia at the head will keep the high title with honour, and will see to the great November celebrations with fresh successes and achievements.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

CELIKU, ASLLANI ATTEND UNVEILING OF MONUMENT

AU090545 [Editorial Report] Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian on 7 September carries on pages 1 and 4 a 650-word ATA report under the headline "Monument Dedicated to Hero of the People Isa Boletini Inaugurated in Shkoder."

The article writes of Isa Boletini: "This heroic son of Kosovo and of the Albanian people, this distinguished patriot and talented leader of Albanian rebels, played a major part in the struggle for the liberation of our fatherland."

The article mentioned a rally held in Shkoder on 6 September to mark the unveiling of the monument, and continues: "Also present were Comrade Harjrein Celiku, AWP Central Committee Politburo member and minister of industry and mines; Comrade Muho Asllani, first secretary of the Shkoder District AWP Committee; Shefqet Peci, chairman of the Albanian War Veterans Committee; Tefta Cami, minister of education and culture; Professor Aleks Buda, chairman of the Academy of Sciences; Anastas Kondo, SWP Central Committee candidate member; Kujtim Buza, secretary of the Union of Albanian Writers' and Artists, etc." The monument was unveiled by Hajredin Celiku.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

BRIEFS

ALIA GREETES YAR PRESIDENT--Tirana, 26 September (ATA)--The president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia sent the following message of greetings to the President of the Arab Republic of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: "The commemoration of the anniversary of your National Day, the day of the revolution, provides me the opportunity that [as received] on behalf of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and in my name to convey to you and the friendly people of the Arab Republic of Yemen the warm greetings and wishes for happiness and prosperity. "I express my conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries develop further in the future." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 1039 GMT 26 Sep 86 AU] /12232

VLORE COOPERATIVE AWARDED TITLE--Tirana, 26 September (ATA)--The "Zaho Koka" agricultural cooperative of Himara in Vlore District was awarded the lofty title "Hero of Socialist Labour." On occasion of handing over this decoration a solemn meeting was organized in the House of Culture on the town of Himara yesterday. Present were the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the party and vice president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Rita Marko, the member of the Central Committee of the party, Sofokli Lazri and other comrades. Comrade Rita Marko greeted those present on behalf of the Central Committee of the party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers and the first secretary of the Central Committee of the party, Comrade Ramiz Alia, personally. The First Secretary of the District Party Committee Enver Halili greeted on behalf of the Party Committee and Executive Committee of the People's Council of the district. [Excerpts] [Tirana ATA in English 1046 GMT 26 Sep 86 AU] /12232

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

CEAUSESCU RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR ZIMMERMAN

AU092023 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1920 GMT 9 Oct 86

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES, 9 October 1986--On Thursday, 9 October, President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania received Ambassador Warren Zimmerman, head of the delegation of the United States of America to the Vienna Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who paid a visit to Romania.

The U.S. ambassador thanked for the interview he was granted and conveyed President Nicolae Ceausescu a cordial salute, as well as the best wishes from the U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

President Nicolae Ceausescu thanked and conveyed, in his turn, a warm salute and the best wishes to President Ronald Reagan.

During the interview, the guest made reference to the Vienna preparatory talks for the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as to the U.S. stand and viewpoints on those questions.

The Romanian president showed that under the current circumstances--when the international situation is still extremely grave--efforts should be stepped up to reach, as soon as possible, agreements conducive to a halt to the arms race and a passage to disarmament, to nuclear disarmament first and foremost, to an end to the deployment of further nuclear weapons in Europe and the withdrawal of the ones in place, to the total elimination of any nuclear arms from the European continent and from the world, to a concomitant reduction of arms, troops and military spending, to the building of a united Europe of peace and collaboration, free from nuclear and chemical weapons.

Showing that the positive outcomes of the Stockholm conference open up fresh horizons to the security and cooperation process in Europe, the Romanian head of state stressed that everything should be done for real progress to be made on the path of world confidence and security building, of improving the international political climate.

During the talk emphasis was also placed on the necessity of stepping up economic, technical-scientific and cultural cooperation between all the states of the world, of building a climate of confidence and broad cooperation among nations, apt to favour the disarmament and peace process in Europe and worldwide. The interchange of views on bilateral problems brought to the fore the wish to further expand the Romanian-U.S. ties on various planes, in the economic realm, more particularly.

POLITICAL

ROMANIA

AGERPRES COMMENTARY ON REAGAN-GORBACHEV SUMMIT

AU101955 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1837 GMT 10 Oct 86

[The Soviet-U.S. Summit Meeting in Reykjavik; A High Sense of Responsibility, Concrete Actions for Disarmament and Peace, in the Interest of All Peoples-- Commentary of the Romanian News Agency AGERPRES"--AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 10 October 1986--The meeting between the general secretary of the CC of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the president of the United States, Ronald Reagan, starts tomorrow in the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, in anticipation of the visit the Soviet leader will pay to the United States, in keeping with the agreement made last year during the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva. Public opinion in Romania, alongside the broad circles of public opinion worldwide, welcome this new meeting as an event of major international significance, in light of the peoples' legitimate expectations that it should lead to the achievement of concrete understandings on the line of disarmament and peace.

It is known that Socialist Romania, the party general secretary, president of the republic, Nicolae Ceausescu, have always attached a great significance to the growth of international dialogue, to the meetings and contacts at the level of state leaders, as a practical means of action that allows a better knowledge of mutual stands and viewpoints and of the joint identification of ways and means to solve problems, in concordance with the major interests of all peoples.

In the spirit of this position in principle, Romania welcomed the organization of the previous meeting, in Geneva, between the two leaders, harbouring the hope that the understandings reached would be translated into practical actions on the line of halting the arms race, of detente and all nations' security. It is known, the period elapsed since then has seen no real steps or concrete measures for disarmament, for the lessening and elimination of the nuclear threat. On the contrary, developments--especially those [that] occurred early this year, when new shows of force and acts of interference in other states' affairs were registered--have deteriorated still more the international situation. Far from slowing down, the arms race has gone on unrestrained. The United States conducted new nuclear tests, new nuclear arms were manufactured and stockpiled, increasing the dangers that threaten the entire humankind.

In the context of those developments, the peoples are entitled to expect that the current meeting in Iceland should result in the achievement of understandings

leading to a halt to the deployment of further missiles in Europe and the withdrawal of the ones in place, the cessation of all nuclear tests, the achievement of conventional disarmament, world confidence and security building. The whole course of international events amply proves that, without such tangible measures, no matter how many talks are held--although their importance and necessity are unquestionable--they cannot be considered as real steps towards disarmament, security and peace.

In this respect, hailing the new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, President Nicolae Ceausescu pointed out: "Any meeting and any action should be judged by its results. We would like to have all the reasons to give a positive assessment. We hope that the two leaders will take action to meet the expectations of the Soviet and American peoples, of the world nations, that is, towards disarmament and peace--and we wish them to reach fine understandings."

Undoubtedly, against the background of world problems, the achievement of effective steps towards disarmament, nuclear first and foremost, is the hottest issue. And it is most natural that the peoples should expect real progress along this particular line, considering the accumulation of huge arsenals--especially nuclear ones--that can destroy the whole humankind, the very conditions for life on the planet. As it is known that the two big powers hold almost all nuclear weapons, it is they that should be the first to pass on to a substantial reduction of nuclear arms--on one side and the other--to an end to outer space militarization.

Romania expressed full support to the three-phased disarmament program until 2000 proposed by the Soviet Union. Welcoming the USSR's decision on a unilateral moratorium on nuclear-weapons tests, Romania called on the United States of America, on other nuclear states, to halt all nuclear tests in the shortest delay. Romania takes the view that a series of U.S. [as received] and other states' proposals make a real basis for disarmament accords.

Naturally, of a particular concern is the situation in Europe, where the largest military forces, both nuclear and conventional, are stockpiled. Starting from this fact, Romania considers that everything possible should be done to halt the location of new nuclear arms and to pass to the withdrawal of the ones in place, this being a vital necessity, a first step towards the scrapping of nuclear weapons.

Romania, the Romanian people are of the opinion that appropriate disarmament accords, tangible measures to halt the arms race, to substantially reduce nuclear and conventional arsenals, troops and military spending would be of special importance for the strengthening of international security, for the consolidation of the course towards detente and security. Steadily working along this line, Romania has recently adopted, at the Congress of Working People, a resolution to pass to a 5 percent reduction of troops, arms and military spending, until the end of this year. Romania calls on all European states, the United States and Canada to pass an at least 5 percent arming cut, even before a proper accord is reached.

This would irrefutably be a tangible step towards disarmament, would open real prospects for efficient disarmament talks, in keeping with the demands of public opinion, of peoples in our continent and the world over. Likewise, the endorsement of such measures would help the efforts for development, would release big material, financial and human resources for the settlement of acute socio-economic problems, for a rise in the material and spiritual welfare of all peoples.

The meeting in Iceland of the USSR and U.S. leaders takes place at a time when armed conflicts are underway and a series of hotbeds of mounting tension are maintained in various regions of the world. It is Romania's opinion that the USSR and the United States can make an important contribution to the cessation of conflicts and the liquidation of the existing hotbeds of tension, just as all the states concerned, all peace-loving forces should step up their efforts to this end.

The Romanian president has repeatedly pointed out that nuclear arms, disarmament and peace problems cannot be solved only by the two big powers. Such-like issues are of direct, vital concern to all world's states and peoples, irrespective of size or social system, and they are not only entitled but also in duty bound to have their say, to express their positions, to contribute to reaching the necessary understandings on disarmament and peace. As President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed, under the current circumstances in particular, the European peoples should actively manifest themselves, work in all firmness and assume direct responsibility for palpable measures to be undertaken to open real prospects for scrapping nuclear arms and turning Europe into a continent of peace, security and collaboration.

In keeping with the specifications made, the agenda of all Reykjavik talks is highly complex. All the more so, peoples expect that efforts should be deployed during the summit to reach corresponding accords, receptivity be shown to single out ways of solving problems, political will displayed to engage constructive and substantive negotiations, to place the common and mankind's interests in the foreground, to advance towards the aim of halting the arms race and safeguarding peace, respectively. International experience has shown that negotiations, held in a constructive and responsible spirit, for mankind's destinies, are the safest way to reach accords meeting all peoples' desiderata and expectations.

In this respect, public opinion in Romania hopes that the meeting in Iceland will end with positive results, going down as an important contribution to the improvement of the world political climate, to making progress along the path of international peace, disarmament, confidence and security, that peoples cherish.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

CEAUSESCU PRESIDES OVER STATE COUNCIL SESSION

AU161118 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 15 Oct 86 p 1

[Text] Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the SR of Romania, presided over a State Council meeting on Tuesday, 14 October.

First deputy prime ministers and deputy prime ministers of the government, ministers, other leaders of central bodies, and chairmen of some permanent commissions of the Grand National Assembly attended the meeting.

The State Council discussed and adopted the decree on instituting the title of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" of the SR of Romania.

In keeping with the decree, the title of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" is to be conferred on counties and state and cooperative agricultural units which achieve large yields on all planned agricultural areas or from the overall planned livestock, thus matching the requirements of the new agrarian revolution in our country.

At the same time, the title of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" is to be awarded to party and state activists, executives of socialist agricultural units, and other agricultural staff who have made a particular contribution to building a modern and highly productive agriculture and to achieving yields which are as large as possible from large areas of lands.

Within the hierarchy of state distinctions of the SR of Romania, the title of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" equals the title of "Hero of Socialist Labor."

The State Council highly assessed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's decisive role in formulating and implementing the great program of building the comprehensively developed socialist society and Romania's advance toward communism and his essential contribution to developing agriculture, achieving the targets of the new agrarian revolution in our country, and improving the well-being of all our people.

The State Council then discussed and adopted the decree on establishing the criteria for conferring the title of "Hero of the New Agrarian Revolution" and of other distinctions on counties and socialist agricultural units for particular accomplishments in increasing agricultural yields.

The decree's provisions give greater impetus to counties, socialist agricultural units, and cadres directly active in agriculture to achieve the largest yields possible on large areas of lands and to increase the contribution made by agriculture to the country's general development in keeping with the requirements of the new agrarian revolution.

To ensure uniform and better administration of all forests and forest plantations, the State Council adopted a decree on transferring some forests, forestry areas, forest plantations, and forest shelter belts to the direct administration of forestry units subordinated to the Ministry of Silviculture.

The State Council then adopted a decree on convening the Grand National Assembly.

The State Council also examined and ratified a convention between the government of the SR of Romania and the government of the USSR on cooperation in the administration of border waters; a convention between the SR of Romania and the SFRY on avoiding double taxation on income and property; and an agreement between the SR of Romania and the Republic of Turkey on avoiding double taxation on income and property.

Prior to the meeting, all aforementioned decrees and international treaties had been examined and favorably endorsed by the specialized permanent commissions of the Grand National Assembly and by the Legislative Council.

The State Council also discussed and endorsed a report of the commission for examining the activity of resolving the proposals, notifications, claims, and applications sent by the working people to the State Council in the first quarter of 1986 and a report of the Council of Ministers regarding the activity of resolving the proposals, notifications, claims, and applications sent to the central bodies of the state administration in the first quarter of 1986.

The State Council then resolved certain problems of the current activity.

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CSO: 2020/15

ROMANIA

POLITICAL

CEAUSESCU GREET'S 'YOUTH AND PEACE' SUMMIT

AU221920 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 19 Sep 86 p 1

["Message by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the SR of Romania, addressed to the participants in the International 'Youth and Peace' Seminar" held in the seaside resort of Costinesti on 18 September]

[Text] Dear young friends,

I take particular pleasure in conveying to all the participants in the International "Youth and Peace" Seminar warm greetings and best wishes for success in the unfolding of this important manifestation.

The International "Youth and Peace" Seminar organized within the framework of the manifestations in Romania, that mark International Peace Year, intends to discuss issues of the greatest importance for the life and future of youth and for all nations in the world, the issues of peace, disarmament, and establishing a world free of weapons and war on our planet.

As is well known, the international situation is currently characterized by great tension as a result of the continuation of the arms race, the maintenance and amplification of some conflicts and state of tension in various regions of the world, caused by the threat and use of force, and interference in other people's domestic affairs. All these things increased the danger of a new world war, which, under the current circumstances would inevitably turn into a nuclear catastrophe leading to the destruction of the conditions for life itself on our planet.

That is why one can forcefully stress that the fundamental issue of our times is to halt the arms race, bring about disarmament, and eliminate the danger of a destructive nuclear war. Under current international circumstances there is no more important issue than disarmament and peace! Everything necessary must be done to unite the efforts of all nations and of all progressive and realistic forces everywhere and put an end to the arms policy, both on Earth and in outer space, in order to defend the supreme right of people and nations to life, peace, and a free and dignified existence.

Faced with all these serious realities, youth--everywhere representing a huge force for progress and peace--should increasingly close ranks and cooperate

broadly in order to be able, together with their people, to halt the course towards a catastrophe for mankind and to impose a new course in the international situation toward detente, disarmament, and peace. The young generation, despite any differences in political, ideological and philosophical convictions, must say a firm no to the policy of arming, the policy of tension and war. Youth--who in every military confrontation always had to pay the heaviest toll--must permanently be in the first ranks of the people's struggle for peace in order to ensure itself a peaceful future, in which its fundamental aspirations for freedom, independence, and progress are fulfilled and its creative capacities are broadly used and fully asserted in all fields of activity.

Youth everywhere is vitally interested in working with all its energy to bring about concrete understandings and practical disarmament measures and the elimination of all kinds of nuclear weapons the world over, and at the same time the cutback on conventional weapons, troops, and military expenditures, which this year reached the huge sum of 1,000 billion dollars. The great material, scientific-technical, and human resources which today are spent on arming should be used to serve life and progress, to finding solutions to the great problems which deeply affect mankind and particularly youth, such as unemployment, famine, disease, and illiteracy, and to supporting the efforts of developing countries to eliminate their backwardness.

Socialist Romania shows high responsibility with the present and the destinies of mankind and of the young generation and consistently speaks out and militates for efficient measures to halt the arms race and achieve a comprehensive disarmament program which, focussing on eliminating nuclear weapons should, at the same time, ensure the cutback on conventional weapons, troops, and military expenditures. In this spirit, our country believes that it would be of great significance if a number of countries, particularly European countries, would proceed to a unilateral cutback of troops, arms, and military expenditures. During this month, the Working People's Congress--the great forum of our revolutionary workers' democracy, attended by more than 11,000 delegates--decided that Romania should proceed to a 5 percent cutback on arms, troops, and military expenditures, as of this year. The congress decided to submit these measures for the whole people's approval, through a referendum, measures which are concrete proof of Romania's desire for peace and unswerving determination to bring about the implementation of some concrete disarmament measures.

We believe that such measures, also taken by other countries, would mean a good start which would increase the opportunity to reach appropriate disarmament measures in the shortest time possible.

Likewise, we speak out for concluding appropriate agreements at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament and at the Vienna negotiations on reducing arms and troops in the central part of Europe, something that would make a contribution to strengthening trust, cooperation, and peace on the continent.

We also militate firmly for developing understanding and cooperation in the Balkans and for turning this region into a zone of peace and cooperation, free

of nuclear and chemical weapons and free of foreign military bases. We support the establishment of such zones in the northern and central parts of Europe, as well as in other parts of the world.

Taking into consideration the serious international economic situation, which deeply affects the developing countries in particular, Romania believes that it is necessary to work with the utmost determination in order to eliminate underdevelopment and establish a new world economic order, based on full equality and equity, and to find overall solutions to the problem of foreign debts, which is an ever heavier burden on the developing countries.

The nations and the world today face very serious and complex problems. Nevertheless, we believe that people, acting unitedly, have the necessary force to constructively resolve these problems and to impose peace, disarmament, and the assertion of new international relations of equality, respect for independence and national sovereignty, and noninterference in other nations' domestic affairs. Youth everywhere must embark on this struggle with all its force and must make its full contribution to promoting the people's ideals and aspirations for peace, cooperation, and complete understanding among all the nations of the world.

I would like to reiterate, with much satisfaction, that youth in Socialist Romania--which, in complete unity with the whole nation, actively and enthusiastically participates in the work of building the new system--militate with determination and high responsibility for peace and disarmament and for broad international cooperation. Moved by these noble ideals, in the future Romanian youth will also participate, with all its energy, at the side of the young generation everywhere, in the joint struggle for disarmament and peace and for the establishment of a lasting climate of cooperation, security, and peace on our planet.

Convinced that the International "Youth and Peace" Seminar will go down as a new contribution to uniting and involving the efforts of the young generation in the struggle for peace and disarmament, for a happy future of freedom, independence, and progress, I wish success to its proceedings!

Nicolae Ceausescu

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CSO: 2020/15

POLITICAL

ROMANIA

UNGA CHAIRMAN RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTER TOTU

AU021802 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1516 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES, 2 October 1986--The Romanian foreign minister, Ioan Totu, who heads the Romanian delegation to the 41st session of the UN General Assembly, had an interview with Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, president of the current UN General Assembly session, whom he conveyed a message of salute as well as the best wishes of good health and success in his activity on behalf of President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania. Thanking for the message, the president of the General Assembly session asked that the Romanian president be conveyed his feelings of deep respect and high consideration, of high appreciation for the activity placed in the service of Romania's manysided development, for his remarkable contribution to promoting understanding, collaboration and peace throughout the world. He asked that the Romanian head of state be conveyed his deep gratitude and high appreciation for the consistent support which Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu grant to the UN organization, for their valuable initiatives and contributions aimed to enhance the role of the United Nations in the contemporary world, to increase the world organization's efficiency in the resolution of the complex problems that confront mankind.

During the interview questions were approached relating to the further growth of the friendly and cooperative ties between Romania and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Views were also exchanged on the major international issues on the agenda of the 41st UN General Assembly session.

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ROMANIA

POLITICAL

TOTU SPEECH AT GROUP OF 77 SESSION

AU030955 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 1 Oct 86 p 6

[Text] United Nations (AGERPRES) 30 September--The proceedings of the 10th ministerial meeting of the "Group of 77" are continuing in New York.

During the discussions, Ioan Totu, minister of foreign affairs and leader of our country's delegation to the current session of the UN General Assembly, took the floor.

Despite optimistic forecasts, the facts of the international situation testify that the world economy continues to face serious difficulties, the speaker said. Far from abating, the economic crisis is expanding in various forms. The situation of the developing countries in particular has worsened as a result of the unprecedented increase in their foreign debts, of the decrease in the prices of those countries' export products, especially in the case of raw materials, and as a result of intensified protectionist measures and barriers, continuing high interest rates, and the fluctuations and instability of currency exchange rates.

The increasingly obvious tendency--promoted by some developed countries--toward a deterioration in the many-sided economic cooperation system and toward avoiding the framework offered by the United Nations to examine and resolve international economic problems is particularly disquieting. Life has demonstrated, however, that the grave problems of underdevelopment cannot be resolved by a small group of states on the basis of partial and individual solutions, or through vague promises behind which the old policy of oppression and neocolonialist domination continues in an unhampered way. Only a global approach, with the participation and active cooperation of all states, can ensure a lasting and equitable solution to the world's great economic problems, and only thus can tangible steps be made in the direction of eliminating underdevelopment and establishing a new world economic order.

Romania believes that the organization of an international conference within the framework of the United Nations and with the participation, on an equal footing, of all developing countries would be of great importance to achieve an accord and understandings designed to favor the more rapid progress of all countries, primarily of those that are lagging, in order to also ensure the smooth development of all states and of the world economy.

The agenda, the Romanian minister continued, includes an item: "The Foreign Debt Crisis and Development" at the request of the "Group of 77." Romanian views that initiative by the developing countries as very important and believes that foreign debts should be one of the priority concerns of our countries at the current session.

Undeniably, the speaker continued, the current international financial-banking system, the onerous conditions imposed when credits are granted to the developing countries, and the interference in their domestic affairs have contributed in large part to an increase in the foreign debts of those countries, a fact that burdens them more and more.

Proceeding from these realities, Romania believes that the problem of foreign debts can be resolved only on the basis of a global economic-political approach and with the participation of all developing and developed countries, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other international financial bodies and representatives of big banks which play an important role in international finances.

The speaker stressed the need to propose--within that framework--gradual measures which will take into considerations the interests in the progress of all developing countries and the stable and balanced development of the world economy. Thus, these measures should cancel the debts of the poorest countries, substantially reduce the debts of developing countries with a low per-capita income, and reduce the debts of the other developing countries, differentiated according to the level of national income and the available potential, and they should reschedule repayment of the remaining debts at a reduced interest rate or with none at all. At the same time, it is necessary to establish a ceiling for annual payments of foreign debts and a maximum limit for interest rates for old credits. The developing countries should be granted new credits under favorable conditions and at rational interest rates to ensure their socioeconomic growth.

When granting new credits to developing countries, one should bear in mind--from country to country--the targets of their socioeconomic development programs, the priorities in exploiting their natural riches, within which framework agriculture should naturally hold an important place.

Romania believes that, in order to achieve a global political-economic solution to the problem of foreign debts, the United Nations must assume greater responsibility by thoroughly discussing all aspects of this problem and by reaching an accord among all countries, both developed and developing countries, debtor and creditor countries, with the participation of all international financial bodies.

Romania has always advocated and acted to develop economic cooperation among the developing countries as an essential factor for accelerating their socioeconomic progress and strengthening their political and economic independence. As President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed, "Socialist Romania is determined to strengthen even more its cooperation with the developing countries, to eliminate underdevelopment, and achieve a new international economic crisis is overcome [as received] and that the necessary conditions are created for the

peoples' independent development, an improvement in their material and cultural standard of living, and for strengthening each nation's independence."

Within the framework of the "Group of 77" we aim at continuing the examination of the most suitable ways and means to implement the actions agreed upon and to identify new opportunities to expand and diversify mutually advantageous cooperation among our countries.

As President Nicolae Ceausescu proposed, the organization of a summit conference of the developing countries, designed to work out measures aimed at expanding cooperation among the developing countries and at formulating a joint strategy and platform for negotiations with the developed countries, would be of great importance.

This year marked the 10th anniversary since Romania joined the "Group of 77." Romania's admittance to the ranks of this group in February 1976 was an event of particular importance and significance in broadly developing relations of friendship, militant solidarity, and cooperation at various levels between Romania and the other developing countries--one of the basic guidelines of Romania's foreign policy. Romania firmly reaffirms its adherence to the common cause of the countries in the "Group of 77" and its determined decision to continue to cooperate actively with those countries in the common struggle to defend our basic interests, to strengthen solidarity and unity in action in resolving the major problems confronting the developing countries, to eliminate underdevelopment, establish a new world economic order, and to build a world of peace, cooperation, and understanding among all peoples, the speaker said in conclusion.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

ZHIVKOV, ATANASOV THANK LEADERS FOR MESSAGE

AU052116 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 27 Sep 86 p 4

[Message of thanks from Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and from Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of SR of Romania and Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania for National Day greetings]

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania and to Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania,

Esteemed Comrades,

On behalf of the BCP Central Committee, the State Council, and Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic, to all the Bulgarian people, and on our own behalf we extend to you, the RCP Central Committee, the State Council and the Government of the SR of Romania, and the Romanian people cordial thanks for the greetings and friendly congratulations conveyed to us on the 42nd anniversary of the victory of the socialist revolution in Bulgaria.

We believe that the relations and fruitful cooperation between the BCP and the RCP, between the Bulgarian People's Republic and the SR of Romania will become broader and deeper in the future, in the interest of the Bulgarian and Romanian peoples, the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, and the triumph of the cause of peace and socialism throughout the world.

We take this opportunity to convey to you, the communists, and all the working people wishes for new and important successes in implementing the 13th RCP Congress decisions of building the comprehensively developed socialist society in Romania.

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic

Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

ZHIVKOV THANKS CEAUSESCU FOR BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

AU052107 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 27 Sep 86 AU p 4

[Message of thanks from Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, for birthday greetings]

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania

Esteemed Comrade Ceausescu,

I express heartfelt thanks for the congratulations and warm greetings extended to me on behalf of the party and state leadership of the SR of Romania, all the Romanian people, and on your own and your wife's behalf, on my 75th birthday and for the award of the highest distinction--the order "The Victory of Socialism."

I believe that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our parties and people will continue to deepen and strengthen in the future for the prosperity of the Bulgarian and Romanian peoples and in the interest of the socialist community, peace, and socialism throughout the world.

I take this opportunity to extend to you, to the esteemed Comrade Elena Ceausescu, and to the fraternal Romanian people new and important successes in building socialism in the SR of Romania.

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

VIETNAM LEADERS' CABLE OF THANKS FOR MESSAGE

AU061418 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 4 Oct 86 p 5

[Message of thanks sent by Vietnamese leaders Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, and Nguyen Huu Tho to President Nicolae Ceausescu, Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, and GNA Chairman Nicolae Giosan for congratulations on Vietnam's National Day]

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania; Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania; and Nicolae Giosan, chairman of the Grand National Assembly of the SR of Romania.

We express sincere thanks to you, the RCP, the State Council, the government, the Grand National Assembly, and to the people of the SR of Romania for the kind congratulations extended on the 41st anniversary of the national holiday of the SRV.

May friendship and fraternal cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries--Vietnam and Romania--strengthen and develop even more each passing day.

We wish the fraternal Romanian people great and fresh successes in building the comprehensively developed socialist society.

Truong Chinh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the SRV State Council, Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV; and Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Assembly of the SRV.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

SCINTEIA ON EARLY ELECTIONS IN AUSTRIA

AU181658 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1204 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES, 18 October 1986--A commentary on the Austrian political scene, by publicist Petre Stancescu, in today's issue of SCINTEIA, shows that the intention of the Socialist Party of Austria to call early parliamentary elections was prompted by events that were, more or less, collateral to the disputes that have been taking place, in the last few months, in the ranks of that major political grouping, such was the case, for instance, with the change operated in the leadership of the Liberal Party, by the election to the office of party chairman of a right-wing representative, Joerg Haider, whom the Socialists cannot accept, ideologically speaking, as a partner in an alliance. At the same time, points out the Bucharest newspaper, discontent has been rife in the Socialists' ranks, and there has been mounting uncertainty as to the opportunity of several home policy measures and options, which added to the great shock felt early in June, when the Socialist candidate lost the race for presidential elections, which ended with the victory of the People's Party opponent.

The opposition People's Party, whose candidate won in the presidential elections, took that success as "a step towards a change," first of all, towards a dissolution of the Socialist-Liberal alliance, the newspaper stresses, showing that "the quick and unpredictable succession of events makes it difficult for a political observer to tell which way the Austrian voters' options will turn." As the People's Party and the Socialists have never completely severed their links, owing to the system of "proportional representation" in designating candidates for management posts in nationalized banks and enterprises, according to the proportion of parliamentary seats, some Austrian political sources do not overrule the possibility of a resumption of the "big coalition," if the country were to be confronted with further economic and social difficulties, which would call for the concerted efforts of the two major political parties, writes SCINTEIA.

The commentary shows that the Communist Party of Austria will concentrate its electoral campaign on the maintenance and consolidation of the nationalized sector of the economy, and will set forth a programme pursuing a reduction of unemployment and the improvement of the workers' material conditions.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

SCINTEIA ON DISARMAMENT DEBATES IN BRITAIN

AU181654 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1435 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 18 October 1986--A commentary contributed by Nicolae Ploeanu to the 18 October issue of the Romanian newspaper SCINTEIA points out that the need for the cessation of the arms race, of the nuclear arms race in the first place, the reduction of military spending and the whole package of problems related to this priority issue of contemporary world were in the focus of the debates conducted within the national conventions of the major political parties and of the TUC [Trade Unions Congress] in Great Britain, held in the convention month. As the newspaper points out, this was the first time in that country's postwar history when home affairs no longer were in the limelight and Great Britain's position in a vital area for peace and security throughout the world took their stead. The debates, the stances taken and the resolutions adopted once again proved that a tendency towards disarmament and the development of peaceful collaboration and cooperation between Eastern and Western states is gaining ground in Great Britain.

Stances in favour of peace, a passage to the cessation of the arms race and the reduction of military spending could be heard even during the convention of the ruling Conservative Party, although it was the only British political forum to have stated for the maintenance of the current stand in the field of arming, the commentary points out adding that the other parties gave completely different responses which culminated with the adoption by the Labour Convention of a resolution on Great Britain's unilateral renunciation of nuclear weapons. The Labour viewpoint was shared by the TUC, as numerous participants speaking from the rostrum of the meeting of that large trade union forum highlighted the deep-going implications of the arms race for the whole economic and social life of the country.

In that context, the newspaper points out that the negative phenomena recorded in the economic and social life, more particularly, mass unemployment with 13 percent of the country's entire active work force, were attributed by numerous delegates to the Labour, Liberal and trade union conventions to the substantial funds wasted on arming. That is why, a renunciation of the costly arming projects was the theme of the recent demonstrations for peace staged in Scotland, SCINTEIA also shows.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

PRC LEADERS THANK CEAUSESCU, DASCALESCU FOR MESSAGE

AU161122 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 14 Oct 86 p 3

[Message of thanks from Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Peng Zhen, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Li Xiannian, PRC president; and Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, to Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, and Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania, for Romania's greetings to the PRC on its National Day]

[Text] On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, the PRC government, and the Chinese people, we express sincere thanks to you, the RCP, the State Council and government of the SR of Romania, and the Romanian people for the greetings message sent to us on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the PRC's proclamation.

Traditional relations of close solidarity and friendly cooperation have been established between our two parties and countries and between the people in China and Romania. We firmly believe that, through joint efforts, these relations will enjoy steady, many-sided, and long-lasting development.

We take this opportunity to convey the fraternal Romanian people wishes for new and ever greater achievements in the work carried out, under RCP leadership headed by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, for the continuous flourishing of Socialist Romania.

Hu Yaogang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee

Peng Zhen, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC

Li Xiannian, PRC president

Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council

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CSO: 2020/15

POLITICAL

ROMANIA

UNESCO MEETING ON EDUCATION CONCLUDES

AU111620 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1356 GMT 11 Oct 86

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES, 11 October 1986--The proceedings of the 13th session of the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES) Consultative Committee ended in Bucharest on 11 October.

The participants in the proceedings, committee members--rectors, professors, directors of research institutes of European countries in the UNESCO membership--looked into the CEPES activity in the period elapsed since the previous session, its tasks for 1987, as well as the proposals for the CEPES programme under the UNESCO 1988-1989 plan. During the debates stress was laid on the results scored in the European countries' collaboration in higher education, the activities organized for the observance of the International Youth Year 1985 and of the International Year of Peace 1986 in the academic system, means to contribute to the establishment of a climate of understanding and cooperation among nations. Underscoring the special significance of the current committee session in the context of the UNESCO 40th anniversary, the speakers made recommendations concerning a growing role and contribution of the institution, the diversification of interuniversity cooperation, for the young generation's participation in the actions taken for the resolution of the problems confronting mankind, the promotion of international scientific information exchange to support the youth's professional training.

Highlighting the productive cooperation between the CEPES and the Romanian Government, the participants in the session addressed thanks for the support and the conditions created for an optimal unfolding of CEPES activities.

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POLITICAL

ROMANIA

BRIEFS

MESSAGE TO YEMEN REPUBLIC--To Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, San'a'. The celebration of the National Day of the Yemen Arab Republic gives me the pleasant opportunity to convey to you warm greetings and best wishes for health and happiness and progress and prosperity to the friendly Yemeni people. Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the SR of Romania. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 26 Sep 86 p 4 AU] /12232

TOTU MEETS FOREIGN MINISTERS--United Nations (AGERPRES) 2 October 1986--Ioan Totu, Romania's minister of foreign affairs, head of the Romanian delegation to the 41st session of the UN General Assembly met and had talks with the foreign ministers of Austria, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Iraq, the DPR of Korea, Mozambique, Syria, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Yugoslavia. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1631 GMT 2 Oct 86 AU] /12232

NEW AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND--Comrade Cornelia Filipas presented her credentials to the president of Iceland, Vidgis Finnbogadottir, in her capacity as Romania's ambassador to Reykjavik. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romania 2 Oct 86 p 7 AU] /12232

GHANA TRADE MINISTER VISITS--Djin Kofi, minister of trade and tourism of the Republic of Ghana, visited our country 1-4 October. The guest held talks with Ilie Vaduva, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and with members of the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Machine-Building, and the Ministry of Electrical Engineering. During the talks, the two sides examined ways and means to expand and diversify "bilateral trade exchanges in order to develop cooperation between Romania and Ghana in the machine-building, chemical, petrochemical, and mining industries, as well as in other economic areas of common interest." [Summary] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 5 Oct 86 p 5 AU] /12232

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION VISITS--At the invitation of the National Committee for the Defense of Peace, a delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee led by Academician Galust A. Galoyan, vice chairman of the Academy of Science of the Armenian SSR, member of the Presidium of the Soviet Peace Committee, and chairman of the Peace Committee of the Armenian SSR, visited Romania 25-30 September. During its stay in our country, the delegation met officials at the Academy of the SR of Romania, the Party Academy for Social and Political Education, the

Central Institute for Economic Research, the ERA SOCIALISTA editorial office, and the Prahova County Council of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front and visited economic and social units in Bucharest and Prahova county. The Soviet guests were also received at the National Committee for the Defense of Peace, where they had an exchange of information and experience on activity and concerns of the two organizations and their contribution to developing relations of friendship between our countries and peoples. Likewise, the role played by public opinion in the people's efforts to establish a climate of peace and security in Europe and throughout the world was also stressed. [Text]
[Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 2 Oct 86 p 5 AU] /12232

ROMANIAN-SOVIET SCIENTIFIC ACCORD--An accord on scientific-technical cooperation in the area of product quality control and metrology between the General State Inspectorate for Product Quality Control of the SR of Romania and the USSR State Committee for Standardization (SCS) and a program for implementing the accord for 1987-90 have been signed in Moscow. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 4 Oct 86 p 6 AU] /12232

CPC IDEOLOGICAL GROWTH RESOLUTION--Beijing (AGERPRES)--Citing an official communique, XINHUA reports that the proceedings of the CPC Central Committee plenum took place in Beijing. The proceedings, which were presided over by Hu Yaobang, Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang, Li Xianniin, Chen Yun, and members of the Standing Committee and the Central Committee Politburo, were attended by the 199 members and 126 candidate members of the CPCZ Central Committee and by members of the Consultative Central Commission and of the Central Commission for Discipline. The Plenum adopted a resolution on guiding disciplines for the construction of the socialist society with an advanced culture and ideology. The plenum stressed that this resolution will serve as a program for strengthening cultural and ideological development in the new historic stage. It also stressed the conviction that this resolution will exert great and profound influence on China's efforts aimed at accelerating material and cultural-ideological development and at promoting reforms, at opening to the outside, and at building a socialist society with its own characteristics. The plenum also adopted a resolution on convening the 13th National Party Congress in October 1987. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 30 Sep 86 p 4 AU] /12232

TOTU COUNTERPARTS AT UNGA--United Nations AGERPRES, 3 October 1986--Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu had interviews with the foreign ministers of Albania, Czechoslovakia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Israel, Kuwait, Nigeria, Suriname, Uruguay and the PDR of Yemen now in New York to attend the 41st session of the UN General Assembly. During the talks on the occasion a survey was made of the evolution of relations between Romania and the respective countries, and opinions were exchanged on the major international issues on the agenda of the current UN General Assembly session. The interviews were attended by Ambassador Teodor Marinescu, Romania's permanent representative to the UN. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1914 GMT 3 Oct 86 AU] /12232

CRASH KILLS ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR--The Romanian ambassador to Ankara, Vasile Patilinet, has been killed in a traffic accident on Highway E5 near Sakarya's [name indistinct] district. According to information obtained by a Turkish Radio and Television [TRT] correspondent, the car driven by the ambassador had

a head-on collision with a truck coming from the opposite direction. Patilinet, who was seriously injured in the accident, died on the way to the hospital. He had been stationed in Ankara for the last 6 years. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 9 Oct 86 TA] /12232

KIM IL-SONG THANKS CEAUSESCU--To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the congratulations and sincere greetings you were so kind to convey to me on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, for the appreciation expressed regarding the successes attained by our people in the socialist construction, and for your expressing solidarity with our people's struggle waged for our homeland's reunification. I take this opportunity to express my belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our countries will continue to deepen and develop in the future. Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and DPRK president. [Message of thanks from Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and DPRK president, to Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, for National Day greetings] [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 9 Oct 86 p 5 AU] /12232

PACOSTE IN MOSCOW--Moscow AGERPRES 10 October 1986--Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Cornel Pacoste had interviews with K. Antonov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and B.I. Aristov, minister of foreign trade, in Moscow. The sides looked into ways and opportunities for a further promotion and development of the economic collaboration between the two countries in the spirit of the understandings reached during the interviews between Presidents Nicolae Ceausescu and Mikhail Gorbachev. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1919 GMT 10 Oct 86 AU] /12232

CASTRO THANKS CEAUSESCU--To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, I express heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the kind and fraternal greetings you extended to me on my 60th birthday anniversary. Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. [Text] [Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 12 Oct 86 p 5 AU] /12232

MALAWI MINISTER ENDS VISIT--Bucharest, AGERPRES 13 October 1986--A delegation of the Congress Party of Malawi, headed by B. Kapicira-Banda, member of the National Executive Committee of the party, minister of siliviculture and natural resources, paid a visit to Romania at the invitation of the CC of the RCP, over 8-13 October. While in Romania the delegation had talks at a number of ministries on matters of bilateral collaboration, especially in the economic domain, visited socio-economic units in Bucharest and Arges County and called at local party and state bodies. Likewise, the delegation met at the CC of the RCP with Ion Stoian, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee, secretary of the CC of the RCP. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1515 GMT 13 Oct 86 AU] /12232

CEAUSESCU RECEIVES ICELANDIC ENVOY--Bucharest AGERPRES 16 October 1986--President Nicolae Ceausescu received on 16 October Pall Asgeir Tryggvason, ambassador of the Republic of Iceland to Bucharest, on ending his mission in Romania. The interview pointed to the good Romanian-Iceland ties as well as to the wish to strengthen cooperation between the two countries bilaterally and internationally. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1857 GMT 16 Oct 86 AU] /12232

WAR VETERANS--Bucharest AGERPRES 17 October 1986--Dolores Ibarruri, chairman of the Communist Party of Spain, received a delegation of the Antifascist War Veterans Committee of Romania made up of Mihail Florescu and Mihail Burca, now in Madrid to attend the festivities marking 50 years since the creation in Spain of international brigades of fight against fascism. A message of salute and best wishes were conveyed to Dolores Ibarruri from RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu. Warmly thanking, Dolores Ibarruri requested that her salute and feelings of esteem and warm friendship as well as cordial wishes be conveyed to Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1901 GMT 17 Oct 86 AU] /12232

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SOCIOLOGY

HUNGARY

DEATH RATE OF MEN IN 40-45 AGE GROUP HIGHEST IN EUROPE

Budapest ESTI HIRLAP in Hungarian 8 Sep 1986 p 3

[Article by M. Gy.: "The Critical Age: 40-44; Shocking Statistics; Harmful Life-style"]

[Text] The report--debated today by the health and welfare committee of the National Assembly and soon to be on the Council of Ministers' agenda--depicts the health status of the population, recommends a comprehensive program for the protection of public health, and is shocking reading.

It is shocking because it offers information of which we have not been precisely conscious.

No Decrease

In spite of all efforts made in our country over the last two decades, the mortality rate among the over-30 population has continued to deteriorate, and today these rates are among the most unfavorable in Europe. What this precisely means is that in two out of eight European countries--one of them being Hungary--only the so-called 'standardized mortality rate' has declined and that in our country, unfortunately, the "absence of a decline in the mortality rate" shows a sharply increasing tendency. But that is not all: In 1985 the "raw mortality rate" was 13.9%. This is the highest value in Europe as well as in Hungary in the approximately four decades during which the direct consequences of the war have ceased to be felt. In 1985 the expected life-span at birth was 69.5 years, one of the lowest in Europe. In the population over the age of 30, a significant worsening of the mortality rate among middle-aged men came about during the last two decades. With regard to an increase in the death rate, the 40-44 age-group is in the most critical situation.

But it is not only the cold statistics that are shocking, but also the fact that we ourselves are speeding up our inevitable fate--death. According to the report, the worsening of the health situation is most certainly a result of a life-style that immeasurably increases the likelihood and danger of contracting chronic and non-infectious diseases. Naturally, in order to contract these diseases, the combined existence of several so-called risk factors is necessary (as a reiteration we list: unhealthy nutrition, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, lasting, often reoccurring

nervous tension, etc.). The level of these in our country as compared to the majority of economically developed countries is unfavorably high. Some nine-tenths of the working-age population have already "acquired" one or two risk factors.

Of course, we generally consider our own habits that determine our fate as unalterable, but--again in a shocking manner--examples prove that "fate" can be influenced. We quote from the report of the minister of health: "In Norway, after the decline experienced in the fifties and sixties, between 1972 and 1982 deaths resulting from circulatory diseases among men between the ages of 40 and 69 declined by 10.1%, and among women by 25.4%; in Finland, between 1970 and 1980 that of men declined by 19.5% and that of women by 40.2%. During the same period of time (between 1972 and 1982), here in our country deaths resulting from circulatory diseases among men increased by 33%, and among women by 3%."

To Stop the Process

Therefore, the drawing up of a comprehensive social program for protecting the health of the population cannot be delayed. The goal of the program that the Council of Ministers will adopt in its final form is to improve the health situation of the population, to have a lasting, continuous, comprehensive, favorable influence, and thereby to improve work capacity. In the course of the following decade we must stop, reverse and perceptibly improve the unfavorable tendencies characterizing the health situation.

The program includes three major groups of tasks. The first involves the question of life-style and habits. The spread of a life-style that is harmful to health is in a significant measure responsible for the unfavorable turn that has come about in the health status of the Hungarian population. A change in life-style, however, cannot depend on normative regulations. We must create incentives so that people can make the best choice with regard to the protection of their health.

Unfavorable Influences

As the second major task, it is necessary to decrease environmental dangers. During recent years the country's settlement and environmental situation have been characterized by the development of environmentally polluting industrial branches and their territorial expansion, the intensive use of chemicals in agriculture, large-scale animal husbandry, the growth in the number of motor vehicles, and an acceleration of the urbanization process, which as a whole have also unfavorably influenced the health of the population.

The third task is the development of health care. In spite of increasing investments and efforts, efforts in this area have lagged behind opportunities offered by developments in medicine and the pace expected by the population. It is a fact that currently our health care system encounters tensions, shortages and great social-regional differences in meeting residential expectations. In order to strengthen the influence of the preventative elements in the work of the health services and institutions--without overemphasizing prevention and without making its demands extreme or unreal--practice and theory must be flexible and follow the changes in the health situation of the population.

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SOCIOLOGY

HUNGARY

REPORT ON EDUCATION LAW DISSATISFACTION

AU011101 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET (supplement) in Hungarian 25 Sep 86 p 4

[Article by Gabor Muranyi: "Loud Response to a Proposal"--passages between slantlines published in italics]

[Excerpts] "Referring to the system of educational requirements, the early summer draft-proposal of the education department would perhaps not have stirred up such a storm in a situation that was not as close to the breaking point" said our article in early September, and we promised to come back to the bitter debate developing between the administration and universities and technical colleges. In spite of all our efforts over the past 2 weeks, we did not manage to find even one single responsible person who would comment on this, and this also proves that the educational administration finds itself in a tight corner. It is certain, however, that the Education Ministry's proposal on the system of educational requirements--and no less important, on personnel and wage management--will not go into effect this year either in its original or in its amended form, although the draftsmen of the proposal planned "to make the decree valid as of 1 September."

Now we will try, as cool-headed reporters, to explain what has happened since 24 April 1986. This is the date given on the form letter accompanying the proposal, written by the education minister, in which he asked the leaders of institutions to /organize debates/ and summarize the experience that they had.

Well, regarding the debates, the general public was able to learn about them from the television cultural weekly. It is true the information was extremely short, but it was indeed unusual: "/Our proposal was received by widespread nonacceptance/"--said the head of the higher education main department of the Ministry of Education. This grammatically affirmative sentence, however, cannot even hint at the emotions set free in the more than 50 higher educational institutions. Although that is so, it has been known for a long time that, on the basis of the 1981 Politburo resolution and within the framework of the Council of Ministers' development program, which was accepted in May 1984, the time will come to rewrite the system of educational requirements, too.

It is beyond dispute that the vital question of the entire higher educational sector is how to improve the standards of the teaching staff, and to remove from universities and technical colleges those teachers--either assistant lecturers, assistant professors, or teachers--who are not suitable for the fulfillment of all tasks required in higher education.

This demand was expressed by several university and college experts 4 years ago, when the long-term development program was formulated for higher education. These people urged the adoption of a selection system which will make it possible to have people in the teaching profession who are really the most suitable. Could there be a better way to achieve this than by having a system of educational requirements which is perfectly adjusted to local conditions? At that time, it seemed to be the general view that people in higher education shared this demand and realized this necessity.

What has changed in these 4 years? Why say that the finally finished draft "was received by widespread nonacceptance?" Knowing the positions of higher educational institutions, their rejections and arguments, this can perhaps be summarized in one sentence as follows: High standards can only be set if those fulfilling them are paid accordingly. Before we accuse the people holding this view, of materialism let us remember that employees in higher education /for a decade did not receive any centrally approved, general pay raises, and this in spite of several public promises they had received./

However, the higher education employees, resigned and more or less "accustomed" to this, were shocked by the ministerial proposal that universities and technical colleges can best help themselves if they reduce the number of staff. This "modern staff management" triggered numerous questions and a similar number of counter-arguments. And these have completely put a damper on the ministry's efforts to try to do something. In addition, the ambiguous wording in the proposal did not result in debate but refusal.

At one point the draft, "[word indistinct] possible calculations" by [word indistinct] a 20 percent staff reduction, shows how teachers' salaries could be calculated. This possible calculation, however, is difficult to understand except as a guideline, and this guideline was criticized by the universities and technical colleges in many respects. Indeed, it is possible that there are too many teachers--which many people doubt--but in places with a shortage of teachers, and there are quite a few of these institutions, staff reduction cannot be considered as a way to improve the standard of payment. According to another argument, it was perhaps not a wise decision to consider staff reduction as a guideline at a time when /the demographic wave has reached the higher education sector/.

However welcome it is that the proposal has set up principles for improving quality, and even the most prejudiced critics realize this, all participants of the debate agree that conditions simply do not exist for implementing it. And here we are not only talking about teachers' salaries, but also about the fact that for many years higher education has had at its disposal less money than before.

Of course, some universities and technical colleges /regularly tap various money resources/ wherever possible, both individually and on the institutional level. Teachers work supplementary jobs, [KK.MUNKAKAT] in gmk's [business partnerships], or simply take regular occasional work in order to supplement their incomes. If teachers are lucky, the income sources also benefit their professional knowledge. But they are not always, or very rarely, that lucky. Thus, they are justified in being afraid of the above-mentioned requirement, which is otherwise worthy of support, a requirement that is summed up by the proposal as follows: "A person cannot be a teacher if he does not have the ambition and the urge to achieve outstanding performance, if he needs to receive incentives to fulfill requirements and to satisfy to the best of his knowledge the demands required." (Just as a reminder: The average income in Hungary is 5,700 forints. The average salary of university lecturers is 6,763 forints, and these lecturers are (should) be the qualified intelligentsia of our time, who are supposed to prepare the experts of the future).

Based on all this, /we must consider/ the retreat of the ministry /the only acceptable solution/ after it realized at the higher educational conference following the institutional debates that the introduction of the system of educational requirements and its consistent implementation can only have a positive effect--even if the new principles call for the proposal to be worked out by the institutions themselves as far as the clauses referring to them go--if it is accompanied by a comprehensive wage adjustment.

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